

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1140321

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	07435564
Registered	2011-02-09
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	17 Bournemouth Road Poole BH14 0EF
Phone	01202712861
Email	info@dorsetblind.org.uk
Website	www.dorsetblind.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1 TO ADVANCE PUBLIC EDUCATION ABOUT BLINDNESS AND DEAFNESS AND THE NEEDS OF THE VISUALLY AND/OR HEARING IMPAIRED IN THE COUNTY OF DORSET AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS2 TO PROMOTE THE RELIEF IN NEED OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE A SIGHT AND/OR HEARING LOSS IN THE COUNTY OF DORSET AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS

Activities: We work to help people with sight loss lead full, independent, healthy and socially active lives. We deliver practical services directly into the community to make these as accessible as possible to all service users and while the sight loss condition itself sadly cannot be cured, the charity works to stop that sight loss from causing or leading to other physical or mental health problems.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Disability
- **Who:** People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THE COUNTY OF DORSET AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS
- Bournemouth
- Dorset
- Poole

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,290,108	£1,117,985	£831,511	32
2024-03-31	£964,511	£936,108	£660,480	25
2023-03-31	£949,307	£827,370	£628,021	19
2022-03-31	£728,607	£691,033	£527,403	19
2021-03-31	£703,335	£530,619	£491,726	17

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Christopher Paul Southon Mr		2026-01-26
Jamie Perry		2018-02-22
Jessica Mary Webster		2020-10-15
Linda Ann Charlton		2026-04-27
MARIA LUISA GRUNDMANN		
Tessa Lynne Bastard		2017-02-01

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1140321

Accounts

Charity registration number 1140321 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 07435564

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

President	Mr J Weld
Patrons	The Lord Fellowes of West Stafford, DL Lady Emma Kitchener-Fellowes Mr S Frears
Directors and Trustees	Mrs M L Grundmann Ms T L Bastard Mr J Perry Mrs Jessica Webster Ms A Colligan
Secretary	Mr J N Holyhead
Chief executive	Mr J N Holyhead
Charity number	1140321
Company number	07435564
Registered office	17 Bournemouth Road Lower Parkstone Poole Dorset BH14 0EF
Independent Auditor	Morris Lane 31/33 Commercial Road Poole Dorset BH14 0HU
Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC Poole Dorset
Solicitors	Druitts Solicitors, Borough Chambers, Fir Vale Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH1 2JE
Investment advisors	Blue Sky Financial Planning Limited 7 Vista Place Coy Pond Business Park Ingworth Road Poole Dorset BH12 1JY

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

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DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Dorset Blind Association was established as an unincorporated charity in 1918 to promote the relief in need of visually impaired in the county of Dorset and to advance public education about blindness and the needs of the visually impaired. It is a registered charity (Registration number 1140321) and works closely with officers and staff of Poole Borough Council, Bournemouth Borough Council, Dorset County Council, Health Authorities across Dorset, the Royal Bournemouth Hospital Eye Unit and the Royal Eye Infirmary at the Dorset County Hospital of Dorchester.

On 10 November 2010 a new incorporated charity was set up, also called Dorset Blind Association, and on 1 April 2011 the funds, assets, liabilities and operations of the unincorporated charity were transferred to it.

Mission Statement

Helping to make life better for visually impaired people.

What services does it provide?

The main services of the Association are:

1. Advice, support and information to blind and partially sighted people and people with hearing loss in Dorset.
2. A community support service, to help people with sight loss maintain independent, healthy and socially active lives. This includes volunteers providing regular home visits.
3. A Resource Centre in Lower Parkstone, Poole providing advice on, and the facility to purchase, specialist equipment and aids to daily living designed to help people who are visually impaired or hearing impaired.
4. A mobile resource centre via the Sight Equipment Vehicles.
5. Support service at the Royal Eye Infirmary at Dorset County Hospital
6. A quarterly newsletter, 'The Dorset Link', produced in a range of accessible formats.
7. Social, Handicraft and Activity Clubs.
8. The provision of grants from voluntary funds, when funding permits.
9. Agents for the British Wireless for the Blind Fund in Dorset.
10. A Braille and audio transcription service to members and external organisations.
11. Awareness training to organisations or individuals on the needs of the visually impaired.

How is it funded?

By voluntary donations, trust funds, bequests and legacies.

By income from investments.

By National Lottery and other grants.

By members' subscriptions.

By income generated at charity shops.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)"

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are to advance public education about blindness and deafness and the needs of the visually and/or hearing impaired and to promote the relief in need of people who have a sight and/or hearing loss, in the county of Dorset and the surrounding areas. The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are detailed in the reports presented by the Chairman, Chief Executive and Treasurer.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake and for the public benefit.

The charity achieves its mission statement and purposes through the provision of a variety of activities, services, help and support for visually impaired people of Dorset, all of which aim to help those people to maintain healthy, independent and socially inclusive lives notwithstanding the impact of the loss of sight.

Sight Loss in Dorset

It is important to understand the scale of sight loss in Dorset and the challenge this presents, as this creates the need for the Dorset Blind Association to exist and to remain vibrant and sustainable.

Being blind or partially sighted has a significant impact on people's ability to live independently, to access shops and community facilities, to use public transport and to play an active part in society. Sight loss does not come in isolation and is often accompanied by other health issues. It can often also have a real impact on people's emotional wellbeing.

All of these challenges were significantly magnified by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The total population of Dorset is now almost 780,000. It is an ageing population with a higher than national average number of people of retirement age and this is set to rise.

Latest available statistics tell us that there are over 4,400 people registered as blind or partially sighted in Dorset.

Of these people over 70% are aged 75 years or older and almost 20% are of working age.

Including the people who are registered as blind or partially sighted, there are an estimated 33,900 people living in Dorset with sight loss, which is equivalent to nearly 4.4% of the county's population.

This number is predicted to continue to rise for the foreseeable future.

The expected increase in the number of people affected by and living with sight loss is strongly linked to the demographics of Dorset, with increased life expectancy certain to result in greater numbers of people affected by conditions such as age-related macular degeneration.

Demand for services to support people suffering from sight loss is already significant, has increased noticeably during the pandemic as services provided by other organisations were stopped or withdrawn and is certain to continue to increase in the medium and longer term.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Chairperson's report 2024/25

Throughout 2024/25 we have continued to consolidate and strengthen our charity's financial position and further build on our service delivery to our members. For any charity, being able to report in this manner is extremely positive.

The services we provide to our members and the wider community have continued to deliver invaluable support to people with sight loss across Dorset and indirectly to many friends and family members too. These services make a real, positive difference to people's lives and it remains the goal of our board and staff to continue this very positive trend. It is gratifying to hear back from our members and supporters of our charity that we are, indeed, making a real difference and are worthy of their support.

I am pleased to report that our Charity Shop model, that incorporates an equipment hub, continues to be very successful in generating a large proportion of the income needed to deliver our services, as well as greatly increasing awareness of the Charity and generating community support. This is an area that we are committed to develop and extend further until we have Dorset wide coverage with a shop easily and quickly accessible to all who live in the county.

We are very grateful to the organisations and businesses, as well as individuals, who continued to support us through this past year and into the future. Without their support, and that of our members, volunteers and patrons, we would not be able to deliver and continually improve our services. I would especially like to thank all who helped our annual Motor Show to go from strength to strength and especially our President James Weld for his support with this event, along with his support generally for all that we do.

Our board is charged with overseeing and directing the course of the Dorset Blind Association and in doing so, we continue to adapt to meet the needs of the people we serve in a changing and challenging financial and political environment where service cuts elsewhere have increased demand. We seek to serve as diverse a population of people with sight loss as possible and that includes not only older people, who make up the majority of our service users, but people of working age who have different and more varied needs.

We applaud our CEO and staff for always looking for ways to make our services more relevant and inclusive to the people we serve. Our diverse Board of Trustees includes people from different professions, who give us the benefit of their expertise. Additionally, our Visually Impaired Trustees offer both their professional expertise and personal experience of sight loss. As two of our Trustees also have hearing loss, they bring an understanding of the challenges faced by the people we serve that experience both sight and hearing loss. Some of our Trustees have served the Charity as volunteers or staff member, giving us a better understanding of the realities faced on the ground by our staff and volunteers. All of these people together make for a very potent and effective mix of talents and perspectives that will ensure we can offer the best guidance and direction possible to support the growth and sustainability of Dorset Blind Association for many years to come.

I will leave it to our CEO's and Treasurer's report to give details of our financial and programme achievements for the past year. We continue to benefit from the dedication, talents and stewardship of our CEO, Jonathan Holyhead. Jonathan continues to manage our building a diverse range of income sources, seeking to deliver our board's goal to make sure that we are never over reliant to just one source of income. With invaluable help from our Treasurer he also works hard to keep expenditure within budgets and to maintain positive cash flow, both of which are essential to the financial well-being of our charity.

Jonathan continues to lead our wonderful and dedicated team of both service and shop staff and over 400 volunteers that make the actual delivery of our services possible. Each and every one of these individuals goes above and beyond to deliver the very best to the people with sight loss, their families and carers throughout Dorset. I speak for the entire Board and on behalf of all our members in thanking them for their service and I look forward to continuing to work with them all in delivering our shared goal of making lives better for people with sight loss in Dorset.

Maria Grundmann
Chairperson

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Chief Executive Officer's report 2024/25

Welcome to my 20th Annual Report for the Dorset Blind Association. This is the sixth report I have given since the Coronavirus pandemic had such a significant impact on everyone's lives and while during this past year that impact has continued to diminish and been substantially less, it still continues to be relevant to how we run the Dorset Blind Association, most especially in continuing to make us much more conscious about needing to be prepared as best we can for the unexpected. While, therefore, this report will, as usual, look back over the past year, I will again also be looking ahead, and again with an emphasis on the vitally important areas of how we will work to maintain our services, try to ensure that these are always sustainable and strive to ensure our charity's financial robustness and stability for the future.

It is always nice to be able to start my report on a positive note, and I am very pleased to say that this is again the case for 2024/25. Last year was another successful year for Dorset Blind Association, delivering strongly on its core purpose and mission, increasing again the number of people we are helping and with a strong, positive financial performance too.

Demand for all of our services has continued to grow, driven by more people than ever turning to DBA where services once provided by other charities, or by local health service or government, are reduced or even fully withdrawn. We find ourselves increasingly picking up the pieces others leave behind and as a local charity, with vibrant, constant and unbreakable links to our community and people, we are determined to always be there to help people whom others may have abandoned. Our service delivery methods try to reflect the ever changing needs of our service users and we pride ourselves on being flexible and adaptable and responsive to those changing needs, as best we are able to be within the scope of the resources we have at our disposal. Our staff and volunteers support significant numbers of blind and partially sighted people in all areas of Dorset and with that support achieving good, positive and meaningful outcomes.

Our charity shops performed extremely well again during the year. Our existing shops are all now very well established and provided 60% of our total income. At the very end of the financial year we opened three further shops, at Blandford, Sturminster Newton and Shaftesbury respectively, which extended the coverage of our shops chain into mid and north Dorset. This almost completed our plan to have a county wide network of shops, and we aim to complete that plan in the summer of 2025 by opening a shop in Sherborne. At that point I feel we will have successfully delivered on my promise to our members, that we will extend our physical presence for Dorset Blind Association to eventually make that throughout all Dorset, and with the twelve shops that we will then have open I think that promise will have been well and truly met.

The shops continue to help us to broaden our reach into the local community, give additional access points for people needing our services, and they help significantly to increase the awareness of our work and how we help people. Last year we sold almost 1,400 items of specialist equipment through the shops, very clearly demonstrating how our shops have made access to that equipment significantly easier for so many more people.

The shops helped us achieve another record year for overall income, with that also significantly helped by what were exceptional legacy receipts, together with extremely kind and invaluable support from a range of other funders. Our annual income exceeded £1m for the first time in our charity's history – another sign of how Dorset Blind Association has continued to grow in recent years – and after expenditure and all other adjustments we ended the year with a surplus of over £171,000 which, because of the exceptional legacy receipts, was greater than we would normally expect. This is clearly a very good outcome and one to celebrate but equally should be seen in the context of those legacy receipts being potentially only a one-off, so we mustn't become complacent and certainly not expect similar surpluses in the next few years, which are likely to be much more challenging.

The surplus from 2024/2025 will be partly invested into completing our shops programme, will help to boost our reserves and move us closer to achieving our Reserves Policy, and will also help to buffer what will definitely be a much more challenging year, financially, in 2025/2026, as we seek to absorb the increases in employment costs arising from central government decisions, while striving to maintain our current service delivery staffing levels.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

In any report I give about our charity I think it is always worth reminding ourselves early on why the Dorset Blind Association exists and the significant extent of sight loss in the county. As recorded earlier in this Report, there are more than 4,400 people living in Dorset today who are registered as blind or partially sighted and, in total, an estimated 33,900 people living in the county with sight loss which affects the quality of their life on a day-to-day basis. Those people need access to support which helps them to come to terms with their loss of sight, to then face and overcome the challenges which serious sight loss presents and to continue to live active, independent lives in their local community.

It is the purpose of the Dorset Blind Association to provide that support and help enable those people to still have a good quality of life and to maintain a good sense of well-being.

To achieve this purpose Dorset Blind Association provides a range of services which help people to come to terms with the emotional challenges associated with sight loss and to then deal with the practical issues which sight loss cause. As well as trying to help the person suffering sight loss themselves, we also hope that our services can positively help their friends, family and carers too. We treat each person we help as an individual, working with them in partnership to address their unique needs and we always try to put people with sight loss at the centre of all that we do.

As well as being practical in its nature, we pride ourselves that the support we give is also always flexible and, where appropriate, we are willing to be innovative. We aren't afraid to try something new if we think it will help to make a positive difference. Without ever compromising people's safety, there are times when the best result is achieved by taking controlled, calculated risks and trying a different approach.

Finally, we recognise that services we provide are not always the best or most appropriate for some of the visually impaired people we help and so we regularly refer people on to other sources of help, either as part of a package with our services or sometimes as the unique solution for their needs. Through this approach we have developed and maintain excellent referral relationships with many other local and national charities and with local health and social care agencies.

We consider ourselves to be a caring organisation, nurturing and encouraging people to do things for themselves, to develop their independence. Indeed, it is a core part of our ethos that kindness to our members and all those who turn to us for help should be an absolute bedrock of all we do. Being kind to people shows we care, and they matter. And that attitude of care and kindness also extends to our dealings with staff members and our wonderful volunteers too.

We also consider ourselves to be progressive and a charity where everyone is made to feel welcome and valued and where volunteers and staff feel the satisfaction of knowing that they are really making a positive difference to the lives of others. Everyone's contributions are valued, however great or small, and we always recognise that it is the sum of everyone's efforts that brings about the positive differences we seek to achieve.

For many people it continues to be essential that our help and support is not time limited in any way. Regular evaluation of our services and feedback from our members tells us that people want a holistic service, as individually person-centred as possible, which is continuous and responsive to their changing needs over time. So we will provide help for as long as it is needed, to recognise that people's needs change and alter over time, as their level of sight may continue to worsen and also other physical health challenges impact more greatly as people age.

Our core services have been developed over a number of years now and continue to adapt and evolve how they work to help visually impaired people across Dorset. Our services achieve a broad range of positive outcomes for the service user. For some the impact can be tiny, for others huge but in every case, we work through our staff and volunteers to try and achieve the best outcome we can for that person. Alongside kindness, we also try to work to an approach where for everyone, whatever their needs, we can say that in our efforts to help them, whatever was possible has been done.

Our various services continue to work towards helping people to remain living independently at home and actively in their local community, including access to social opportunities and through these the ability to build and benefit from a good peer support network. We also aim to encourage our service users to still do as much for themselves as possible, to help maintain as much independence as possible and a positive feeling of self-worth.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

We recognise the importance of trying to be guided by our members in how the charity operates and to reflect their views in both maintaining existing services and in any new services we are able to provide. Our Board of Directors and Trustees includes visually impaired people, as does our employed staff team, and we use regular consultation with our members and volunteers, both formal and informal, to help inform decisions about ongoing and future service provision, as well as our Impact Report.

One of the most pleasing things to reflect on, for several years now, is how our service delivery has grown and the increased numbers of people we now regularly support. In recent years we have been able to increase staffing for our community services by over 20% and this reflects in record numbers of people being helped and supported. Compared to 2018, the annual number of individual interactions with our services users has increased by 150%, which reflects not just how much we have been able to expand our service delivery over recent years, but the level of demand for our support and how hard our service delivery staff are working.

And on that final point, it is pertinent for me to mention in this report that we are probably now at peak capacity, and our challenges for the immediate future most definitely include managing demand on our services, so these aren't stretched beyond breaking point, with the resulting consequences which none of us would ever want to see.

Which leads me in turn to saying that our ability to deliver our services and all the extremely positive outcomes these achieve is always dependent on maintaining our key resources, the two most important of which are our people and our income.

We continue to be blessed by a wonderful team of volunteers who give so generously of their time to help provide our services and we are so grateful for all they do. Our volunteer numbers grew again during the year – we now have over 400 - and I like to think that our continuing ability to recruit volunteers, and retain many for long periods, reflects a combination of being a local charity, providing a wide range of different volunteering opportunities, the effectiveness of our staff in motivating people to join us and the satisfaction our volunteers gain from what they do. Our volunteers are extremely kind and generous people, giving freely of their time, energy and skills to help others and it remains a source of great pride to us all that we hold The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. On behalf of each and every visually impaired person we help, I take this opportunity to publicly thank our volunteers as a whole group and also record how much all of the charity's staff team enjoy working with you and value your dedication and friendship.

An increasing number of our service users also now formally volunteer within our charity, giving their time and skills to help in a variety of ways. Alongside that formal volunteering a great many others volunteer informally, by giving peer support to others in the visually impaired community. The value of the lived life experience of someone with sight loss, when shared with others experiencing the same disability, should never be understated and it is a resource we need to always make the most and best use of.

I would also like to thank our Board of Directors and Trustees for all they do, individually and as a group, to support Dorset Blind Association. Their support for me personally is always hugely appreciated and I value the trust they place in me. They are critical friends, quite rightly wanting to question and interrogate decisions I take in my day-to-day management of the charity, and to be consulted and fully involved in strategic planning and decision making. Their commitment to the charity should be commended, especially the length of time they individually and collectively have served in this role, reflecting, I think, the personal satisfaction each takes from helping our charity to thrive under their stewardship.

I would also like to recognise and give appreciation for the continuing and extremely kind support we receive from our President, James Weld and our Patrons, Julian and Emma Fellowes and Stephen Frears. Individually and collectively they also provide a range of valuable and vital support for Dorset Blind Association, often in ways which go unseen by the majority. They are all genuinely concerned to see the charity prosper and thrive and are very generous and effective supporters. We are very grateful for their continuing support and I take this opportunity to publicly thank them for that.

Last but certainly not least, when talking of our people assets I must also report another year where our staff have, yet again, individually and collectively delivered far and beyond the call of duty. They are a wonderful asset for our charity, bringing a wide range of skills, knowledge and experience into their various roles, and individually and collectively they make so much of what we do possible. Your charity benefits hugely from how all staff pull together to work as a team, always responding positively and energetically to the challenges we face and I am always enormously grateful for the hard work they all put in and for the support they all give me in my role. Again, on behalf of each and every visually impaired person we help, I take this opportunity to publicly thank them.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Financial performance during 2024/25 was, as I have already mentioned, again strong and we again achieved a record income total. Our expenditure was higher than in the previous year, reflecting services and activities increasing again and the additional costs of our further shops. After all adjustments we ended the year with a surplus of £171,031 and I have already commented earlier in my report on how this will help us in various ways.

A key aspect of our approach to funding Dorset Blind Association has always been to try and generate income from a board platform of sources and never becoming too dependent or over reliant on any one single source, as we consider this best helps to provide stability. Our charity shop project certainly helps with this, both as a diversification from all other sources of income, but also with the number of shops now meaning that we aren't over reliant on strong performance from just one or two. The growing income from those shops now sits as a significant contributor to our overall financing, alongside the other important areas of members fees and donations, legacy income and grants and funding from the National Lottery and many grant making Trusts and Foundations. We also have a very meaningful contribution each year now from our annual Motor Show, which is then topped up further from a number of community fundraising events throughout the year.

We are always grateful for all the income and other resources which come into the charity, including the many grant making Trusts and Foundations which have given to us. None of this support is ever taken for granted, we always thank all who give to us and we continue to work hard to justify the support and to show to all funders that the resources they kindly give us are well used and to good effect.

I have already commented earlier that last year was, by our historic levels, an exceptional year for legacy receipts. I do not expect future year's to match this, but I hope that the amounts we have received from this source for the past few years now marks a pattern which will be ongoing. It is, of course, always difficult to reflect that receipts of this nature must mean that someone has sadly died, but the fact that increasing numbers of people are choosing to support Dorset Blind Association in this final way in their Will is, I hope, a positive reflection on the quality and positive impact of our services and support. Continuing to receive legacy income at reasonable levels is critical to ensuring that we can maintain all service provision at the levels now provided.

We also greatly appreciated the support given by the public, most noticeably at our annual Motor Show event held annual at Lulworth Castle, courtesy of our President James Weld. We are extremely grateful to be allowed to use this prestigious venue for the event, which is now firmly established as a marquee event on the Dorset calendar. This year's show was the biggest and best yet, by every measurement, and through it our charity gains wide and extremely positive exposure and public awareness, as well as raising funds to support our services.

Our immediate future is both exciting and challenging. The financial year 2025/2026 will be much more difficult than the year on which I am reporting, but I am confident that we can navigate this. I expect us to complete our shops project and achieve the desired county wide coverage, and income from our shops and other sources should allow us also to sustain and maintain the level of staffing in our community services and those services generally. Our finances have definitely improved and strengthened significantly in the past few years, which is as a direct result of the performance of the shops, combined with good legacy income and income from other sources. We have strengthened our balance sheet and we enjoy good, strong and regular positive cash flow. All of this took hard work to achieve and will always take hard work to maintain, but I am determined that all we have grown and developed in recent years must be sustainable, for the benefit of our members, and achieving and maintaining sustainability will continue to be my most important personal goal in my role for Dorset Blind Association for as long as I remain in post.

An important part of sustainability is also to look beyond, and plan for, the time when some key members of staff are no longer in post, so in the year ahead I will also be working with the Board on succession planning for those key staff posts.

In conclusion I think we can all look back on the year 2024/2025 as another year which was positive and where we certainly delivered very effectively on our core purpose. As always for Dorset Blind Association this was achieved through a real team effort with a great many people playing their part and contributing. We continued to deliver vitally important and much needed support for our service users throughout Dorset and achieved this alongside another strong financial performance. We ended the year conscious that there will be challenges ahead, but confident that we can meet those challenges and that we can look forward to supporting our community even more.

Jonathan Holyhead
Chief Executive Officer.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Treasurer's Report 2024/25

I am pleased to report that the Dorset Blind Association has achieved another record year for income, with total income of £1,290,108 compared to last year's total of £964,511. After all the expenditure and other financial adjustments, the year finished with a very commendable surplus of £171,031, compared to the previous year's surplus of £32,459.

Any year which ends with a surplus should be acknowledged as good, in financial terms at least, so our financial year 2024/2025 should be seen as that and on that basis alone should be celebrated as positive.

Looking at our main sources of income, legacy receipts this year were £396,930. Legacies remain an important part of our overall funding mix and while this is an area of income that is so unpredictable it is pleasing to see that over time the average yearly total being received is increasing. Recognising the unpredictability of this income source, however, we will always be careful to not become reliant on legacy income, and this is where our shops are becoming increasingly more important.

The shops have performed very well and our further investment in continuing to grow our shops portfolio has paid dividends. They generated income of £712,465, which is an increase of £105,237 or over 17% on the previous year. This is excellent news, and all the staff and volunteers should be thanked for all their hard work, without which I am sure our financial results would not have been so positive.

Our expenditure has increased this year in line with both opening 3 further shops and increasing the staff resource for our service delivery. Expenditure will increase again next year as we plan to open another shop and because of the negative impact of increases in Employer's National Insurance, alongside another over inflation increases in staff costs and other unavoidable costs we incur in providing our services and operating our shops. That further expenditure, however, is planned for within a budget for 2025/2026 that initially aims to operate to just a very small deficit, which is just a little over 1% of our budgeted income. We feel that to operate in financial year 2025/2026 to that very small deficit would be perfectly acceptable, in light of the operating surpluses made in recent years.

Going forward, I am confident that if we continue to deliver our plans to sustainably expand our shops and maintain and grow our other sources of income, while always controlling our expenditure then our financial position will remain positive.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and the volunteers that support us as without them we wouldn't be where we are today and alongside that I would also like to say thank all our Trustees who give their expertise in helping the DBA to move forward and last but not least I would like to thank our CEO. Without his commitment and efforts we certainly wouldn't be in the comparatively strong position we are now.

Heidi Rockett
Hon Treasurer

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Achievements and performance

Financial review

The results are summarised on page 14. Total income increased from £964,511 in the previous year to £1,290,108. This is mainly due to the increase in legacy receipts and an increase in income generated from the charity shops.

Expenditure has increased from £936,108 in the previous year to £1,117,985. This is mainly due to the opening of more shops and increasing staffing to deliver our charitable activities.

The Trustees are aware that all expenditure must be monitored regularly and they have budgeted for it to increase in the year 2025/2026 as we open another shop and seek to absorb increased employment costs without needing to reduce our service delivery staffing from current levels.

Reserves policy

In determining the Association's Reserve Policy, the Trustees have taken into account inter alia:-

- the unpredictable nature of income from donations and gifts;
- that it would be very undesirable to have to cut off services on which the visually or hearing impaired rely.

The Trustees have agreed the Association's Reserve Policy as:-

- a minimum of six months unrestricted operating expenditure;
- commitments such as redundancy or rental charges which would need to be met if the Association ceased to exist.

The policy is consistently reviewed and, if necessary, revised at least annually when the financial statements are approved.

The purpose of the designation for designated funds of the charity is detailed in note 22.

The charity considers free reserves can include designated funds as there is no obligation on the charity to hold these as designated if the need arose to use these. As at 31 March 2025 they were £429,814. This is in line with the £400,000 to meet the operating expenditure required per the policy, the Trustees are comfortable that with the regular positive cash flow from the charity shops they will continue to generate funds to meet this level.

The unrestricted funds of the charity are £769,057. The trustees will continue to monitor the level of reserves.

Investment policy

The trustees acknowledge the role played by investment income as an element of the Association's overall income needs. They have appointed a firm of stockbrokers, Blue Sky Financial Planners Limited, to manage a portfolio of investments on their behalf. Decisions regarding the purchase or sale of any investment are made only after taking into consideration professional advice obtained from this firm. Investments held comprise a balanced portfolio with a low to medium level of risk. The current portfolio is 60% medium risk and 40% low risk.

As income from investments is not currently needed for meeting running costs the Trustees have instructed Blue Sky Financial Planners Limited to retain dividends and reinvest these, to help further boost the value of the investment portfolio held over time.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Risk management

The Trustees have always reviewed the nature of major risks to which the Charity may be exposed from time to time and as a consequence they have designed and established systems aimed at managing those risks.

Recognising that the situations arising with COVID-19 and cost of living crisis, the potential risks are constantly evolving and changing, risk review is now undertaken on a more frequent basis, almost continuously by the Charity Chief Executive Officer, with further mitigating actions taken on an ongoing basis as felt necessary and the CEO reporting on this to each Trustees meeting.

Plans for the future

The Trustees recognise the need to develop a broad range of sustainable income streams to support the future work of the Association and they are developing plans to work towards this aim.

They are also giving thought to the strategic direction which the work of the Charity should take and the potential value of partnerships and other co-operative working arrangements with other charities to help achieve this.

The charity hope to complete the shop's project in the coming year and achieve the physical presence of the charity in Dorset and provide further bases to support an increase in the delivery of community support services.

Structure, governance and management

The Association is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee. Directors are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and those Directors are the Trustees of the Charity.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

Mrs M L Grundmann

Mrs H Rockett

(Resigned 17 September 2024)

Ms T L Bastard

Mr J Perry

Mrs Jessica Webster

Ms A Colligan

They are recruited and trained by a variety of means, including a handbook supplemented by in-house training. Management of the affairs of the Association is vested in the Board of Directors who may appoint such sub-committee and staff as may seem fit. The Management Committee in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer have delegated authority for the day to day management of the Association and report back to the Board of Directors on a regular basis.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute such sum (not exceeding £10) as may be demanded in the event of its being wound up while he/she is a member, towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the charity and towards the costs, charges and expenses of winding up.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Morris Lane be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

.....
Mrs M L Grundmann

Chairman

Dated:

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

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

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Dorset Blind Association (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

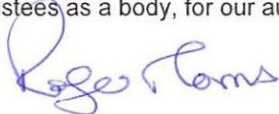
The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Other matters

The corresponding figures (year ended 31 March 2024) in these accounts are unaudited.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Roger Morris (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Morris Lane, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants
31/33 Commercial Road
Poole
Dorset

BH14 0HU

Date:

5 November 2025

Morris Lane is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	3	521,929	-	-	521,929	302,825
Charitable activities	4	245	-	-	245	20
Other trading activities	5	761,313	-	-	761,313	654,783
Investments	6	6,431	126	64	6,621	6,883
Total income		1,289,918	126	64	1,290,108	964,511
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	7	576,357	-	-	576,357	490,021
Charitable activities	8	541,628	-	-	541,628	446,087
Total resources expended		1,117,985	-	-	1,117,985	936,108
Net gains/(losses) on investments	14	(1,092)	-	-	(1,092)	4,056
Net incoming resources before transfers		170,841	126	64	171,031	32,459
Gross transfers between funds		51,000	(51,000)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		221,841	(50,874)	64	171,031	32,459
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		547,216	108,938	4,326	660,480	628,021
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		769,057	58,064	4,390	831,511	660,480

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	16		397,307		336,666
Investments	17		250,552		128,184
			<u>647,859</u>		<u>464,850</u>
Current assets					
Stocks	19	12,424		12,062	
Debtors	20	153,187		94,926	
Cash at bank and in hand		135,166		115,207	
			<u>300,777</u>		<u>222,195</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	(117,125)		(26,565)	
Net current assets			<u>183,652</u>		<u>195,630</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>831,511</u>		<u>660,480</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	25		4,390		4,326
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	26	58,064		108,938	
General unrestricted funds		769,057		547,216	
			<u>827,121</u>		<u>656,154</u>
			<u>831,511</u>		<u>660,480</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

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

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

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on

.....
Mrs M L Grundmann
Trustee

Company Registration No. 07435564

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	32		241,602		81,398
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(104,803)		(95,286)	
Purchase of investments		(338,032)		(45,364)	
Proceeds from disposal of investments		214,571		41,020	
Investment income received		6,621		6,883	
Net cash used in investing activities			(221,643)		(92,747)
Net cash generated from financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			19,959		(11,349)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			115,207		126,556
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			135,166		115,207

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Dorset Blind Association is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 17 Bournemouth Road, Lower Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, BH14 0EF.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Incoming resources

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

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

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

Assets for distribution are recognised only when distributed. Assets given for use by the charity are recognised when receivable. Stocks of undistributed donated goods are not valued for balance sheet purposes.

Shop income and income derived from events is recognised as earned (that is, as the related goods or services are provided).

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income that is derived from the provision of goods and services is stated after trade discounts, other sales taxes and is net of VAT.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Costs of generating funds are the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be attributed directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Included within support costs are governance costs including the preparation of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustees' meetings and the cost of any legal advice on governance or constitutional matters.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

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

Freehold property	50 years straight line
Leasehold improvements	10 years straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	5 years straight line
Computer equipment	100%
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

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

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date.

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent costs, and are charged or credited to the statement of financial activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are charged or credited to the statement of financial position based on the market value at the year end.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

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

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in income/ (expenditure for the year, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately, unless the relevant asset is carried in at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

1.9 Stocks

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

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.11 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

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

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

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

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.12 Employee benefits

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

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

1.13 Retirement benefits

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

1.14 Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases whenever the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the lessees. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Assets held under finance leases are recognised as assets at the lower of the assets fair value at the date of inception and the present value of the minimum lease payments. The related liability is included in the balance sheet as a finance lease obligation. Lease payments are treated as consisting of capital and interest elements. The interest is charged to net income/(expenditure) for the year so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability.

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds general £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	34,869	-	34,869	37,782
Legacies receivable	396,930	-	396,930	75,310
Grants receivable	90,130	-	90,130	189,733
	<u>521,929</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>521,929</u>	<u>302,825</u>
For the year ended 31 March 2024	<u>262,955</u>	<u>39,870</u>		<u>302,825</u>

4 Charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Transcription income	<u>245</u>	<u>20</u>

5 Other trading activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Fundraising events	48,848	47,555
Shop income	<u>712,465</u>	<u>607,228</u>
Other trading activities	<u>761,313</u>	<u>654,783</u>

Included in the shop income are amounts relating to the the sale of new and used equipment specifically designed to aid blind and partially sighted people as per the mission statement of the charity.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6 Investments

	Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from listed investments	2,810	-	-	2,810	4,203
Interest receivable	3,621	126	64	3,811	2,680
	<u>6,431</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>6,621</u>	<u>6,883</u>

7 Raising funds

	2025 £	2024 £
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Other fundraising costs	15,682	13,773
Support costs	1,688	1,409
Fundraising and publicity	<u>17,370</u>	<u>15,182</u>
<u>Trading costs</u>		
Operating charity shops	212,359	208,312
Staff costs	338,567	260,644
Governance costs	4,350	4,445
Trading costs	<u>555,276</u>	<u>473,401</u>
<u>Investment management</u>	3,711	1,438
	<u>576,357</u>	<u>490,021</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8 Charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs	299,987	246,699
Shop and office costs	15,099	3,587
Staff travelling, expenses and training	21,718	16,310
Rent	24,413	22,548
Rates	384	215
Heat and light	6,273	5,314
Insurance	6,798	5,392
Telephone	1,580	1,452
Social and outings	12,798	10,715
Home visiting scheme	581	406
Dorset link	2,310	2,904
Bad debts written off	10	77
Sight equipment vehicle expenses	8,174	8,285
	<u>400,125</u>	<u>323,904</u>
Share of support costs (see note 9)	102,600	101,736
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	38,903	20,447
	<u>541,628</u>	<u>446,087</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	541,628	400,208
Restricted funds	-	45,879
	<u>541,628</u>	<u>446,087</u>
For the year ended 31 March 2024		
Unrestricted funds - general	400,208	
Restricted funds	45,879	
	<u>446,087</u>	

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9	Support costs	Support costs	Governance costs	2025	2024	Basis of allocation
		£	£	£	£	
	Staff costs	35,360	-	35,360	32,639	Staff time
	Depreciation	44,162	-	44,162	48,851	Support
	Rent	4,650	-	4,650	3,938	Usage
	Rates	95	-	95	71	Usage
	Heat and light	907	-	907	749	Usage
	Insurance	2,266	-	2,266	1,798	Usage
	Telephone	526	-	526	484	Usage
	Office costs	11,933	-	11,933	10,185	Usage
	Bank charges	4,389	-	4,389	4,430	Usage
	Audit fees	-	15,000	15,000	-	Governance
	Accountancy	-	4,334	4,334	-	Governance
	Legal and professional	-	23,919	23,919	21,728	Governance
	Independent examiners fees	-	-	-	3,164	Governance
		<u>104,288</u>	<u>43,253</u>	<u>147,541</u>	<u>128,037</u>	
	Analysed between					
	Fundraising	1,688	-	1,688	1,409	
	Trading	-	4,350	4,350	4,445	
	Charitable activities	102,600	38,903	141,503	122,183	
		<u>104,288</u>	<u>43,253</u>	<u>147,541</u>	<u>128,037</u>	

10	Net movement in funds	2025	2024
		£	£
	The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
	Fees payable to the charity's auditor:		
	- for the audit of the charity's financial statements	15,000	-
	- for other financial services	13,904	11,778
	Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	44,162	48,851
		<u>73,066</u>	<u>60,629</u>

11	Auditor's remuneration	2025	2024
		£	£
	Fees payable to the charity's auditor and associates:		
	For audit services		
	Audit of the financial statements of the charity	15,000	-
	For other services		
	All other non-audit services	13,904	11,778
		<u>28,904</u>	<u>11,778</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

12 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

13 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Administration	4	4
Service delivery	8	6
Shop staff	20	15
	<u>32</u>	<u>25</u>

Employment costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	620,142	497,273
Social security costs	42,079	32,668
Other pension costs	11,693	10,041
	<u>673,914</u>	<u>539,982</u>

Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £58,938 (2023: £54,718).

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

14 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Revaluation of investments	(4,740)	4,056
Gain/(loss) on sale of investments	3,648	-
	<u>(1,092)</u>	<u>4,056</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

15 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is, therefore, exempt from taxation.

16 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property improvements	Leasehold improvements	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Computer equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 April 2024	217,981	38,366	262,929	47,922	47,365	614,563
Additions	-	-	83,241	2,913	18,649	104,803
At 31 March 2025	217,981	38,366	346,170	50,835	66,014	719,366
Depreciation and impairment						
At 1 April 2024	4,360	38,366	155,276	47,922	31,973	277,897
Depreciation charged in the year	2,179	-	35,424	1,545	5,014	44,162
At 31 March 2025	6,539	38,366	190,700	49,467	36,987	322,059
Carrying amount						
At 31 March 2025	211,442	-	155,470	1,368	29,027	397,307
At 31 March 2024	213,621	-	107,653	-	15,392	336,666

17 Fixed asset investments

	2025 £	2024 £
Listed investments	250,552	128,184
Listed investments included above:	2025 £	2024 £
Listed investments carrying amount	250,552	128,184

Fixed asset investments revalued

The historical cost of the investments is £254,885 (2024: £123,722).

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

17 Fixed asset investments	(Continued)	
Movements in fixed asset investments		
		Shares
		£
Cost or valuation		
At 31 March 2025		128,184
Additions		338,032
Valuation changes		(4,740)
Disposals		(210,924)
		<u>250,552</u>
At 31 March 2025		<u>250,552</u>
Carrying amount		
At 31 March 2025		<u>250,552</u>
At 31 March 2024		<u>128,184</u>
18 Financial instruments	2025	2024
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss	<u>250,552</u>	<u>128,184</u>
19 Stocks	2025	2024
	£	£
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>12,424</u>	<u>12,062</u>
20 Debtors	2025	2024
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	109	669
Other debtors	101,548	53,335
Prepayments and accrued income	51,530	40,922
	<u>153,187</u>	<u>94,926</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

21 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security		10,028	8,392
Deferred income	24	18,450	-
Trade creditors		26,912	8,628
Other creditors		4,478	3,516
Accruals		57,257	6,029
		<u>117,125</u>	<u>26,565</u>

22 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At 31 March 2025 the company annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Within one year	156,830	110,450
Between two and five years	477,536	398,565
In over five years	74,420	122,458
	<u>708,786</u>	<u>631,473</u>

23 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

	2025 £	2024 £
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	<u>11,693</u>	<u>10,041</u>

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £11,693 (2024: £10,041). These are unrestricted funds and are analysed under charitable activities.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

24 Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Arising from government grants	18,000	-
Arising from other deferred income	450	-
	<u>18,450</u>	<u>-</u>

The above amounts are included within current liabilities.

The other deferred income relates to membership income being received in advance.

A grant of £18,000 was received from National Lottery Awards for All, it was funding for community support service staff costs for the accounting year ended 31 March 2026.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

25 Restricted funds

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

	Balance at 1 April 2024	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2025
		Incoming resources	Resources expended	
	£	£	£	£
Childrens Fund	4,326	64	-	4,390
	<u>4,326</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,390</u>

Childrens Fund - this fund was transferred to the charity on the closure of another charity and will be spent on activities, equipment and other service support for visually impaired children.

26 Designated funds

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

VIP Diary Group	8,938	126	(1,000)	8,064
Shops Fund	100,000	-	(50,000)	50,000
	<u>108,938</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>(51,000)</u>	<u>58,064</u>

VIP Diary Group - this fund represents monies held on behalf of our North Dorset Club from the sale of their specialist diaries for visually impaired people to be spent as directed by the Club.

Shops Fund - this fund is to enable the opening and development of further shops in areas of Dorset considered to be strategically important. These shops will provide further hubs for Dorset Blind Association in the community and act as access points to our services, as well as generating further income to help fund delivery of those services.

27 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:					
Tangible assets	397,307	-	-	397,307	336,666
Investments	200,552	50,000	-	250,552	128,184
Current assets/(liabilities)	171,198	8,064	4,390	183,652	195,630
	<u>769,057</u>	<u>58,064</u>	<u>4,390</u>	<u>831,511</u>	<u>660,480</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

28 Contingent liability

The Charity is currently involved in a legal dispute with a former employee concerning a personal injury claim. The outcome of this matter is uncertain and at present a definitive assessment of the likelihood of a successful outcome or precise amount of any potential liability cannot be established. The charity has an insurance policy in place that may provide reimbursement for some or all of the costs associated with this dispute depending on the outcome.

29 Capital commitments

Amounts contracted for but not provided in the financial statements:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	7,798	-

Capital commitments shown above relate to capital improvement works at charity shops that had been agreed at the year end.

30 Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity there were the following transactions with related parties:

During the year a number of trustees donated goods for the charity to sell in its charity shops and donated services at charity events.

During the year one Trustee incurred travel and general expenses on behalf of the Charity and was reimbursed an amount of £77 (2024: £68).

During the year the charity purchased services totalling £16,676 (2024 : £14,632) from a business that is a related party to the key management. At 31 March 2025 the Charity owed £3,322 in respect of these services (2024 : £nil). The transactions were made on a normal commercial basis.

31 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

32	Cash generated from operations	2025 £	2024 £
	Surplus for the year	171,031	32,459
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(6,621)	(6,883)
	Gain on disposal of investments	(3,648)	-
	Fair value gains and losses on investments	4,740	(4,056)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	44,162	48,851
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase) in stocks	(361)	(1,945)
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(58,261)	14,082
	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	72,110	(1,110)
	Increase in deferred income	18,450	-
	Cash generated from operations	<u>241,602</u>	<u>81,398</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1140321

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1140321

Company Registration No. 07435564 (England and Wales)

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

President	Mr J Weld
Patrons	The Lord Fellowes of West Stafford, DL Lady Emma Kitchener-Fellowes Mr S Frears
Directors and Trustees	Mrs M L Grundmann Mrs H Rockett Ms T L Bastard Mr J Perry Mrs Jessica Webster Mrs A Colligan
Secretary	Mr J N Holyhead
Chief executive	Mr J N Holyhead
Charity number	1140321
Company number	07435564
Registered office	17 Bournemouth Road Lower Parkstone Poole Dorset BH14 0EF
Independent examiner	Morris Lane 31/33 Commercial Road Poole Dorset BH14 0HU
Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC 100 High Street Poole Dorset BH15 1BL
Solicitors	Druitts Solicitors, Borough Chambers, Fir Vale Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH1 2JE
Investment advisors	Charles Stanley & Co Ltd Vadatech House Hounslow Business Park Bulls Copse Road Southampton Hampshire SO40 9LR

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

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DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Dorset Blind Association was established as an unincorporated charity in 1918 to promote the relief in need of visually impaired in the county of Dorset and to advance public education about blindness and the needs of the visually impaired. It is a registered charity (Registration number 1140321) and works closely with officers and staff of Poole Borough Council, Bournemouth Borough Council, Dorset County Council, Health Authorities across Dorset, the Royal Bournemouth Hospital Eye Unit and the Royal Eye Infirmary at the Dorset County Hospital of Dorchester.

On 10 November 2010 a new incorporated charity was set up, also called Dorset Blind Association, and on 1 April 2011 the funds, assets, liabilities and operations of the unincorporated charity were transferred to it.

Mission Statement

Helping to make life better for visually impaired people.

What services does it provide?

The main services of the Association are:

1. Advice, support and information to blind and partially sighted people and people with hearing loss in Dorset.
2. A community support service, to help people with sight loss maintain independent, healthy and socially active lives. This includes volunteers providing regular home visits.
3. A Resource Centre in Lower Parkstone, Poole providing advice on, and the facility to purchase, specialist equipment and aids to daily living designed to help people who are visually impaired or hearing impaired.
4. A mobile resource centre via the Sight Equipment Vehicles.
5. Support service at the Royal Eye Infirmary at Dorset County Hospital
6. A quarterly newsletter, 'The Dorset Link', produced in a range of accessible formats.
7. Social, Handicraft and Activity Clubs.
8. The provision of grants from voluntary funds, when funding permits.
9. Agents for the British Wireless for the Blind Fund in Dorset.
10. A Braille and audio transcription service to members and external organisations.
11. Awareness training to organisations or individuals on the needs of the visually impaired.

How is it funded?

By voluntary donations, trust funds, bequests and legacies.

By income from investments.

By National Lottery and other grants.

By members' subscriptions.

By income generated at charity shops.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)"

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are to advance public education about blindness and deafness and the needs of the visually and/or hearing impaired and to promote the relief in need of people who have a sight and/or hearing loss, in the county of Dorset and the surrounding areas. The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are detailed in the reports presented by the Chairman, Chief Executive and Treasurer.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake and for the public benefit.

The charity achieves its mission statement and purposes through the provision of a variety of activities, services, help and support for visually impaired people of Dorset, all of which aim to help those people to maintain healthy, independent and socially inclusive lives notwithstanding the impact of the loss of sight.

Sight Loss in Dorset

It is important to understand the scale of sight loss in Dorset and the challenge this presents, as this creates the need for the Dorset Blind Association to exist and to remain vibrant and sustainable.

Being blind or partially sighted has a significant impact on people's ability to live independently, to access shops and community facilities, to use public transport and to play an active part in society. Sight loss does not come in isolation and is often accompanied by other health issues. It can often also have a real impact on people's emotional wellbeing.

All of these challenges were significantly magnified by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The total population of Dorset is now almost 780,000. It is an ageing population with a higher than national average number of people of retirement age and this is set to rise.

Latest available statistics tell us that there are over 4,400 people registered as blind or partially sighted in Dorset.

Of these people over 70% are aged 75 years or older and almost 20% are of working age.

Including the people who are registered as blind or partially sighted, there are an estimated 33,900 people living in Dorset with sight loss, which is equivalent to nearly 4.4% of the county's population.

This number is predicted to continue to rise for the foreseeable future.

The expected increase in the number of people affected by and living with sight loss is strongly linked to the demographics of Dorset, with increased life expectancy certain to result in greater numbers of people affected by conditions such as age-related macular degeneration.

Demand for services to support people suffering from sight loss is already significant, has increased noticeably during the pandemic as services provided by other organisations were stopped or withdrawn and is certain to continue to increase in the medium and longer term.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Chairperson's report 2023/24

Continuing a trend that has been established over several years now, I am proud to say that during the year 2023/24 we have continued to consolidate and strengthen our charity's financial position and further build on our service delivery to our members. For any charity, being able to report in this manner is extremely positive.

The services we provide to our members and the wider community have continued to deliver invaluable support to people with sight loss across Dorset and indirectly to many friends and family members too. These services make a real, positive difference to people's lives and it remains the goal of our board and staff to continue this very positive trend.

I am pleased to report that our Charity Shop model, that incorporates an equipment hub, continues to be very successful in generating a large proportion of the income needed to deliver our services, as well as greatly increasing awareness of the Charity and generating community support. This is an area that we are committed to develop and extend further until we have Dorset wide coverage with a shop easily and quickly accessible to all who live in the county.

We are very grateful to the organisations and businesses, as well as individuals, who continued to support us through this past year and into the future. Without their support, and that of our members, volunteers and patrons, we would not be able to deliver and continually improve our services. I would especially like to thank all who helped our annual Motor Show to go from strength to strength and especially our President James Weld for his support with this event, along with his support generally for all that we do.

Our board is charged with overseeing and directing the course of the Dorset Blind Association and in doing so, we continue to adapt to meet the needs of the people we serve in a changing and challenging financial and political environment where service cuts elsewhere have increased demand. We seek to serve as diverse a population of people with sight loss as possible and that includes not only older people, who make up the majority of our service users, but people of working age who have different and more varied needs. We applaud our CEO and staff for always looking for ways to make our services more relevant and inclusive to the people we serve.

Our diverse Board of Trustees includes people from different professions, who give us the benefit of their expertise. Additionally, our Visually Impaired Trustees offer both their professional expertise and personal experience of sight loss. As two of our Trustees also have hearing loss, they bring an understanding of the challenges faced by the people we serve that experience both sight and hearing loss. Some of our Trustees have served the Charity as volunteers or staff member, giving us a better understanding of the realities faced on the ground by our staff and volunteers. All of these people together make for a very potent and effective mix of talents and perspectives that will ensure we can offer the best guidance and direction possible to support the growth and sustainability of Dorset Blind Association for many years to come.

I will leave it to our CEO's and Treasurer's report to give details of our financial and programme achievements for the past year. We continue to benefit from the dedication, talents and stewardship of our CEO, Jonathan Holyhead. Jonathan continues to manage our building a diverse range of income sources, seeking to deliver our board's goal to make sure that we are never over reliant to just one source of income. With invaluable help from our Treasurer he also works hard to keep expenditure within budgets and to maintain positive cash flow, both of which are essential to the financial well-being of our charity.

Jonathan continues to lead our wonderful and dedicated team of both service and shop staff and over 400 volunteers that make the actual delivery of our services possible. Each and every one of these individuals goes above and beyond to deliver the very best to the people with sight loss, their families and carers throughout Dorset. I speak for the entire Board and on behalf of all our members in thanking them for their service and I look forward to continuing to work with them all in delivering our shared goal of making lives better for people with sight loss living in Dorset.

Maria Grundmann
Chairperson

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Chief Executive Officer's report 2023/24

Welcome to my 19th Annual Report for the Dorset Blind Association. This is the fifth report I have given since the Coronavirus pandemic had such a significant impact on everyone's lives and while during this past year that impact has continued to diminish and been substantially less, it still continues to be relevant to how we run the Dorset Blind Association, most especially in continuing to make us much more conscious about needing to be prepared as best we can for the unexpected. While, therefore, this report will, as usual, look back over the past year, I will again also be looking ahead, and again with an emphasis on the vitally important areas of how we will work to maintain our services, try to ensure that these are always sustainable and strive to ensure our charity's financial robustness and stability for the future.

It is always nice to be able to start my report on a positive note, and I am very pleased to say that this is again the case for 2023/24. Last year was another successful year for Dorset Blind Association, delivering strongly on its core purpose and mission, increasing again the number of people we are helping and with a strong, positive financial performance too.

Demand for all of our services has continued to grow, driven by more people that ever turning to DBA where services once provided by other charities, or by local health service or government, are reduced or even fully withdrawn. We find ourselves increasingly picking up the pieces others leave behind and as a local charity, with vibrant, constant and unbreakable links to our community and people, we are determined to always be there to help people whom others may have abandoned. Our service delivery methods have now settled into a mix of the old and the new, a mix of some of the ways we worked pre-pandemic and some ways which we introduced during the pandemic and this blended, hybrid model ensures that our staff and volunteers support significant numbers of blind and partially sighted people in all areas of Dorset and with that support achieving good, positive and meaningful outcomes.

Our charity shops performed extremely well during the year and provided 60% of our income. We successfully opened our seventh shop at Easton, Portland and our eighth shop at Bridport, giving us a shop presence now across the breadth of the county and working further to deliver on my promise to our members that we will extend our physical presence for Dorset Blind Association to eventually make that throughout all Dorset. The shops continue to help us to broaden our reach into the community even further, give additional access points for people needing our services, and they help significantly to increase the awareness of our work and how we help people. Last year were sold more than 1,400 items of specialist equipment through the shops, very clearly demonstrating how our shops have made access to that equipment significantly easier for so many more people.

The shops helped us achieve another record year for overall income, with that also significantly helped again by good legacy receipts and extremely kind and invaluable support from a range of other funders. After expenditure and all other adjustments we ended the year with a surplus roughly equivalent to 4% of our turnover, which I feel is a good outcome and helps to move us closer to achieving our Reserves Policy.

In any report I give about our charity I think it is always worth reminding ourselves early on why the Dorset Blind Association exists and the significant extent of sight loss in the county. As recorded earlier in this Report, there are more than 4,400 people living in Dorset today who are registered as blind or partially sighted and, in total, an estimated 33,900 people living in the county with sight loss which affects the quality of their life on a day to day basis. Those people need access to support which helps them to come to terms with their loss of sight, to then face and overcome the challenges which serious sight loss presents and to continue to live active, independent lives in their local community.

It is the purpose of the Dorset Blind Association to provide that support and help enable those people to still have a good quality of life and to maintain a good sense of well-being.

To achieve this purpose Dorset Blind Association provides a range of services which help people to come to terms with the emotional challenges associated with sight loss and to then deal with the practical issues which sight loss cause. As well as trying to help the person suffering sight loss themselves, we also hope that our services can positively help their friends, family and carers too. We treat each person we help as an individual, working with them in partnership to address their unique needs and we always try to put people with sight loss at the centre of all that we do.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

As well as being practical in its nature, we pride ourselves that the support we give is also always flexible and, where appropriate, we are willing to be innovative. We aren't afraid to try something new if we think it will help to make a positive difference. Without ever compromising people's safety, there are times when the best result is achieved by taking controlled, calculated risks and trying a different approach.

Finally, we recognise that services we provide are not always the best or most appropriate for some of the visually impaired people we help and so we regularly refer people on to other sources of help, either as part of a package with our services or sometimes as the unique solution for their needs. Through this approach we have developed and maintain excellent referral relationships with many other local and national charities and with local health and social care agencies.

We consider ourselves to be a caring organisation, nurturing and encouraging people to do things for themselves, to develop their independence. Indeed, it is a core part of our ethos that kindness to our members and all those who turn to us for help should be an absolute bedrock of all we do. Being kind to people shows we care, and they matter.

We also consider ourselves to be progressive and a charity where everyone is made to feel welcome and valued and where volunteers and staff feel the satisfaction of knowing that they are really making a positive difference to the lives of others.

For many people it continues to be essential that our help and support is not time limited in any way. Regular evaluation of our services and feedback from our members tells us that people want a holistic service, as individually person-centred as possible, which is continuous and responsive to their changing needs over time. So we will provide help for as long as it is needed, to recognise that people's needs change and alter over time, as their level of sight may continue to worsen and also other physical health challenges impact more greatly as people age.

Our core services have been developed over a number of years now and continue to adapt and evolve how they work to help visually impaired people across Dorset. Our services achieve a broad range of positive outcomes for the service user. For some the impact can be tiny, for others huge but in every case we work through our staff and volunteers to try and achieve the best outcome we can for that person. Alongside kindness, we also try to work to an approach where for everyone, whatever their needs, we can say that in our efforts to help them, whatever was possible has been done.

Our various services continue to work towards helping people to remain living independently at home and actively in their local community, including access to social opportunities and through these the ability to build and benefit from a good peer support network.

We recognise the importance of trying to be guided by our members in how the charity operates and to reflect their views in both maintaining existing services and in any new services we are able to provide. Our Board of Directors and Trustees includes visually impaired people and we use regular consultation with our members and volunteers, both formal and informal, to help inform decisions about ongoing and future service provision, as well as our Impact Report.

One of the most pleasing things is to reflect on how our service delivery has grown and the increased numbers of people we now regularly support. During the past year, because of strong financial performance, we have been able to increase our service delivery staff resource by over 20% and this reflects in a record number of people helped by our community support services. Last year those services helped and cared for over 1,200 individuals, with nearly 12,500 individual interactions with those people through home visits, club sessions, outings, events, online meetings and telephone calls. In 2018 that number was just under 5,000, so this shows just how much we have been able to expand our service delivery over recent years.

Our ability to deliver our services and all the extremely positive outcomes these achieve is always dependent on maintaining our key resources, the two most important of which are our people and our income.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

We continue to be blessed by a wonderful team of volunteers who give so generously of their time to help provide our services and we are so grateful for all they do. Our volunteer numbers grew again during the year and I like to think that our continuing ability to recruit volunteers, and retain many for long periods, reflects a combination of being a local charity, providing a wide range of different volunteering opportunities, the effectiveness of our staff in motivating people to join us and the satisfaction our volunteers gain from what they do. Our volunteers are extremely kind and generous people, giving freely of their time, energy and skills to help others and it remains a source of great pride to us all that we hold The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. On behalf of each and every visually impaired person we help, I take this opportunity to publicly thank our volunteers as a whole group and also record how much all of the charity's staff team enjoy working with you and value your dedication and friendship.

I would also like to thank our Board of Directors and Trustees for all they do, individually and as a group, to support Dorset Blind Association. Their support for me personally is always hugely appreciated and I value the trust they place in me. They are critical friends, quite rightly wanting to question and interrogate decisions I take in my day-to-day management of the charity and to be consulted and fully involved in strategic planning and decision making. Their commitment to the charity should be commended, especially the length of time they individually and collectively have served in this role, reflecting, I think, the personal satisfaction each takes from helping our charity to thrive under their stewardship.

I would also like to recognise and give appreciation for the continuing and extremely kind support we receive from our President, James Weld and our Patrons, Julian and Emma Fellowes and Stephen Frears. Individually and collectively they also provide a range of valuable and vital support for Dorset Blind Association, often in ways which go unseen by the majority. They are all genuinely concerned to see the charity prosper and thrive and are very generous and effective supporters. We are very grateful for their continuing support and I take this opportunity to publicly thank them for that.

Last but certainly not least, when talking of our people assets I must also report another year where our staff have, yet again, individually and collectively delivered far and beyond the call of duty. For anyone reading my reports for previous years, I sound a little like a record stuck in the groove when I mention my staff colleagues, but it really is the case that they are a wonderful asset for our charity and make so much of what we do possible. Your charity benefits hugely from how all staff pull together to work as a team, always responding positively and energetically to the challenges we face and I am always enormously grateful for the hard work they all put in and for the support they all give me in my role. Again, on behalf of each and every visually impaired person we help, I take this opportunity to publicly thank them.

Financial performance during 2023/24 was, as I have already mentioned, again strong and we again achieved a record income total. Our expenditure was higher than in the previous year, reflecting services and activities increasing again and the additional costs of our further shops. After all adjustments we ended the year with a surplus of £32,459 which helps to further boost our reserves towards meeting the target figure in our Reserves Policy.

A key aspect of our approach to funding Dorset Blind Association has always been to try and generate income from a board platform of sources and never becoming too dependent or over reliant on any one single source, as we consider this best helps to provide stability. Our charity shop project certainly helps with this and the growing income from those shops now sits as a significant contributor to our overall financing, alongside the other important areas of members fees and donations, legacy income and grants and funding from the National Lottery and many grant making Trusts and Foundations.

We are always grateful for all the income and other resources which come into the charity, including the many grant making Trusts and Foundations which have given to us. None of this support is ever taken for granted, we always thank all who give to us and we continue to work hard to justify the support and to show to all funders that the resources they kindly give us are well used and to good effect.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Last year was also another good year for legacy receipts and I hope that the amounts we have received from this source for the past few years now marks a pattern which will be ongoing. It is, of course, always difficult to reflect that receipts of this nature must mean that someone has sadly died, but the fact that increasing numbers of people are choosing to support Dorset Blind Association in this final way in their Will is, I hope, a positive reflection on the quality and positive impact of our services and support. If we continue to receive legacy income at broadly the levels of the past two years, current service provision would almost certainly be guaranteed and there would also be scope to grow these further.

We also greatly appreciated the support given by the public, most noticeably at our annual Motor Show event held annual at Lulworth Castle, courtesy of our President James Weld. This is now a marquee event on the Dorset calendar and through it our charity gains wide and extremely positive exposure and public awareness, as well as raising funds to support our services,

Our immediate future is exciting. We anticipate having the income to work towards completing the development of our shops project and ultimately aim to have a shop accessible to anyone living in Dorset. Income from our shops and other sources should allow us also to further extend the staffing resources in our community support services to the level I consider is optimum and, most importantly, to then sustain and maintain that level of staffing.

Our finances have improved and strengthened significantly in the past few years, which is as a direct result of the performance of the shops, combined with good legacy income and income from other sources. We have strengthened our balance sheet and we enjoy good, strong and regular positive cash flow. All of this took hard work to achieve and will always take hard work to maintain, but I am determined that all we have grown and developed in recent years must be sustainable, for the benefit of our members, and achieving sustainability will continue to be my most important personal goal in my role for Dorset Blind Association for as long as I remain in post.

In conclusion I think we can all look back on the year 2023/2024 as another year which was positive and where we certainly delivered very effectively on our core purpose. As always for Dorset Blind Association this was achieved through a real team effort with a great many people playing their part and contributing. We continued to deliver vitally important and much needed support for our service users throughout Dorset and achieved this alongside another strong financial performance. We ended the year looking very positively forward to further growth and development and through that we can look forward to supporting our community even more.

Jonathan Holyhead
Chief Executive Officer.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Treasurer's Report 2023/24

I am pleased to report that the Dorset Blind Association has achieved another record year for income, with total income of £964,511 compared to last year's total of £949,307. After all the expenditure and other financial adjustments the year finished with a surplus of £32,459 compared to last year's total of £100,618. While the figure for 2023/24 is less than the previous year, that year was exceptional and a surplus of approximately 3.5% of our turnover for 2023/24 is a result that we should still consider to be more than acceptable.

Any year which ends with a surplus should be acknowledged as good, in financial terms at least, so our financial year 2023/2024 should be seen as that and on that basis alone should be celebrated as positive.

Looking at our main sources of income, legacy receipts this year were £75,310. This is above our average total over the past 10 years, so is excellent. Legacies remain an important part of our overall funding mix and while this is an area of income that is unpredictable it is pleasing to see that over time the average yearly total being received is increasing. Recognising the unpredictability of this income source, however, we will always be careful to not become reliant on legacy income and this is where our shops are becoming increasingly more important.

The shops have performed very well and our further investment in continuing to grow our shops portfolio has paid dividends. The income that they have generated was £607,228, which is an increase of £66,452 or over 12% on the previous year. This is excellent news and all the staff and volunteers should be thanked for all their hard work. Without them I don't think we would have done as well.

Other areas of income generation continue to be important, including grants and community fundraising, both of which showed increases in 2023/24 from the previous year, and membership fees and donations, which held steady. All these areas contribute significantly to our overall funding and help ensure we have a diverse and widespread base to our income generation, and help to ensure that we do not become over reliant on any one individual source.

Our expenditure has increased this year in line with increasing our service delivery and with our two further shops. This was predicted in my report last year and I would again expect our expenditure to increase in 2024/25 as we plan to open at least one further shop and to again increase staff resources for our service delivery. That further expenditure, however, is planned for within a budget for 2024/25 that again aims to achieve another surplus.

Going forward, I am confident that if we continue to deliver our plans to sustainably expand our shops and maintain and grow our other sources of income, while always controlling our expenditure then our financial position will remain positive.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and the volunteers that support us as without them we wouldn't be where we are today and alongside that I would also like to say thank you to my fellow Trustees who give their expertise in helping the DBA to move forward and last but not least I would like to thank our CEO. Without his commitment and efforts we certainly wouldn't be in the comparatively strong position we are now.

Heidi Rockett
Hon Treasurer

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Achievements and performance Financial review

The results are summarised on page 13. Total income increased from £949,307 in the previous year to £964,511. This is mainly due to strong legacy receipts, a further increase in income generated from the charity shops and increased income from grants and community fundraising.

Expenditure has increased from £827,370 in the previous year to £936,108. This is mainly due to the opening of our new shops at Easton, Portland and at Bridport and an increase in service delivery.

The Trustees are aware that all expenditure must be monitored on a regular basis and they have budgeted for it to increase in year 2024/2025 to cover increased service delivery costs and the potential for opening further shops.

Reserves policy

In determining the Association's Reserve Policy, the Trustees have taken into account inter alia:-

- the unpredictable nature of income from donations and gifts;
- that it would be very undesirable to have to cut off services on which the visually or hearing impaired rely.

The Trustees have agreed the Association's Reserve Policy as:-

- a minimum of six months unrestricted operating expenditure;
- commitments such as redundancy or rental charges which would need to be met if the Association ceased to exist.

The policy is consistently reviewed and, if necessary, revised at least annually when the financial statements are approved.

The purpose of the designation for designated funds of the charity is detailed in note 22.

The charity considers free reserves can include designated funds as there is no obligation on the charity to hold these as designated if the need arose to use these. As at 31 March 2024 they were £317,642. This is less than the £400,000 to meet the operating expenditure required per the policy, the Trustees are comfortable that with the regular positive cash flow from the charity shops they will generate funds to meet this level.

The unrestricted funds of the charity are £570,370. The trustees will continue to monitor the level of reserves.

Investment policy

The trustees acknowledge the role played by investment income as an element of the Association's overall income needs. They have appointed a firm of stockbrokers, Charles Stanley, to manage a portfolio of investments on their behalf. Decisions regarding the purchase or sale of any investment are made only after taking into consideration professional advice obtained from this firm. Investments held comprise a balanced portfolio with a low to medium level of risk. The current portfolio is 60% medium risk and 40% low risk.

As income from investments is not currently needed for meeting running costs the Trustees have instructed Charles Stanley to retain dividends and reinvest these, to help further boost the value of the investment portfolio held over time.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Risk management

The Trustees have always reviewed the nature of major risks to which the Charity may be exposed from time to time and as a consequence they have designed and established systems aimed at managing those risks.

Recognising that the situations arising with COVID-19 and cost of living crisis, the potential risks are constantly evolving and changing, risk review is now undertaken on a more frequent basis, almost continuously by the Charity Chief Executive Officer, with further mitigating actions taken on an ongoing basis as felt necessary and the CEO reporting on this to each Trustees meeting.

Plans for the future

The Trustees recognise the need to develop a broad range of sustainable income streams to support the future work of the Association and they are developing plans to work towards this aim.

They are also giving thought to the strategic direction which the work of the Charity should take and the potential value of partnerships and other co-operative working arrangements with other charities to help achieve this.

The charity has now opened 6 charity shops and is considering adding further in the future to try and grow the physical presence of the charity in Dorset and potentially provide further bases to support an increase in the delivery of community support services.

Structure, governance and management

The Association is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee. Directors are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and those Directors are the Trustees of the Charity.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

Mrs M L Grundmann

Mrs H Rockett

Mrs P L Jones

(Resigned 22 January 2024)

Mr M Dowley

(Resigned 17 October 2023)

Ms T L Bastard

Mr J Perry

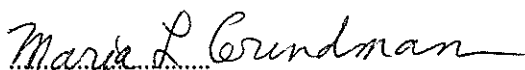
Mrs Jessica Webster

Mrs A Colligan

They are recruited and trained by a variety of means, including a handbook supplemented by in-house training. Management of the affairs of the Association is vested in the Board of Directors who may appoint such sub-committee and staff as may seem fit. The Management Committee in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer have delegated authority for the day to day management of the Association and report back to the Board of Directors on a regular basis.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute such sum (not exceeding £10) as may be demanded in the event of its being wound up while he/she is a member, towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the charity and towards the costs, charges and expenses of winding up.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Mrs M L Grundmann

Chairman

Dated:

15th September 2024

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Dorset Blind Association (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity 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 the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

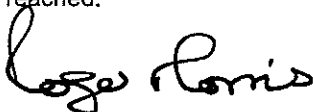
Independent examiner's statement

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 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 financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their 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 financial statements to be reached.



Roger Morris ACA
Morris Lane

31/33 Commercial Road
Poole
Dorset
BH14 0HU

Dated: 19 July 2024

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2	262,955	-	39,870	302,825	364,054
Charitable activities	3	20	-	-	20	595
Other trading activities	4	654,783	-	-	654,783	578,598
Investments	5	6,721	111	51	6,883	6,060
Total income		<u>924,479</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>39,921</u>	<u>964,511</u>	<u>949,307</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	490,021	-	-	490,021	411,718
Charitable activities	7	400,208	-	45,879	446,087	415,652
Total resources expended		<u>890,229</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,879</u>	<u>936,108</u>	<u>827,370</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	4,056	-	-	4,056	(21,319)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		<u>38,306</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>(5,958)</u>	<u>32,459</u>	<u>100,618</u>
Gross transfers between funds		(24,000)	24,000	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>14,306</u>	<u>24,111</u>	<u>(5,958)</u>	<u>32,459</u>	<u>100,618</u>
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		532,910	84,827	10,284	628,021	527,403
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		<u><u>547,216</u></u>	<u><u>108,938</u></u>	<u><u>4,326</u></u>	<u><u>660,480</u></u>	<u><u>628,021</u></u>

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Property, plant and equipment	13		336,666		290,232
Investments	14		128,184		119,783
			<u>464,850</u>		<u>410,015</u>
Current assets					
Inventories	16	12,062		10,117	
Trade and other receivables	17	94,926		109,008	
Cash at bank and in hand		115,207		126,556	
		<u>222,195</u>		<u>245,681</u>	
Current liabilities	18	(26,565)		(27,675)	
Net current assets			195,630		218,006
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>660,480</u>		<u>628,021</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	21		4,326		10,284
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	22	108,938		84,827	
General unrestricted funds		547,216		532,910	
			<u>656,154</u>		<u>617,737</u>
			<u>660,480</u>		<u>628,021</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

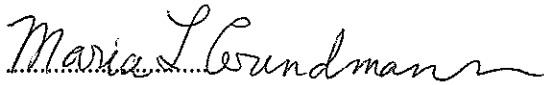
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15th September 2024



Mrs M L Grundmann
Trustee

Company Registration No. 07435564

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	25		81,398		125,871
Investing activities					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(95,286)		(253,921)	
Purchase of investments		(45,364)		(43,450)	
Proceeds on disposal of investments		41,020		138,400	
Investment income received		6,883		6,060	
Net cash used in investing activities			(92,747)		(152,911)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents			(11,349)		(27,040)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			126,556		153,596
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>115,207</u>		<u>126,556</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Dorset Blind Association is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 17 Bournemouth Road, Lower Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, BH14 0EF.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Incoming resources

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

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

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

Assets for distribution are recognised only when distributed. Assets given for use by the charity are recognised when receivable. Stocks of undistributed donated goods are not valued for balance sheet purposes.

Shop income and income derived from events is recognised as earned (that is, as the related goods or services are provided).

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Costs of generating funds are the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be attributed directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Included within support costs are governance costs including the preparation of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustees' meetings and the cost of any legal advice on governance or constitutional matters.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

1.6 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

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

Freehold property	50 years straight line
Leasehold improvements	10 years straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	5 years straight line
Computer equipment	100%
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Non-current investments

Fixed asset investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date.

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent costs, and are charged or credited to the statement of financial activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are charged or credited to the statement of financial position based on the market value at the year end.

1.8 Impairment of non-current assets

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

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in income/ (expenditure for the year, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately, unless the relevant asset is carried in at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

1.9 Inventories

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

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.11 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

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

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

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

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.12 Employee benefits

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

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

1.13 Retirement benefits

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

1.14 Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases whenever the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the lessees. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Assets held under finance leases are recognised as assets at the lower of the assets fair value at the date of inception and the present value of the minimum lease payments. The related liability is included in the statement of financial position as a finance lease obligation. Lease payments are treated as consisting of capital and interest elements. The interest is charged to net income/(expenditure) for the year so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability.

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds general £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and gifts	37,782	-	37,782	41,269
Legacies receivable	75,310	-	75,310	176,251
Grants receivable	149,863	39,870	189,733	146,534
	<u>262,955</u>	<u>39,870</u>	<u>302,825</u>	<u>364,054</u>
For the year ended 31 March 2023	<u>322,404</u>	<u>41,650</u>		<u>364,054</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3 Charitable activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Transcription income	20	595

4 Other trading activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Fundraising events	47,555	37,822
Shop income	607,228	540,776
Other trading activities	654,783	578,598

Included in the shop income are amounts relating to the the sale of new and used equipment specifically designed to aid blind and partially sighted people as per the mission statement of the charity.

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from listed investments	4,203	-	-	4,203	4,608
Interest receivable	2,518	111	51	2,680	1,452
	6,721	111	51	6,883	6,060

6 Raising funds

	2024 £	2023 £
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Other fundraising costs	13,773	11,901
Support costs	1,409	-
Fundraising and publicity	15,182	11,901
<u>Trading costs</u>		
Operating charity shops	208,312	179,888

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6	Raising funds	(Continued)	
	Staff costs	260,644	213,066
	Support costs	4,445	4,569
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Trading costs	473,401	397,523
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>Investment management</u>	1,438	2,294
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		<u>490,021</u>	<u>411,718</u>
		<hr/>	<hr/>
7	Charitable activities	2024	2023
		£	£
	Staff costs	246,699	229,655
	Shop and office costs	3,587	2,568
	Staff travelling, expenses and training	16,310	15,507
	Rent	22,548	24,485
	Rates	215	480
	Heat and light	5,314	4,741
	Insurance	5,392	5,581
	Telephone	1,452	1,723
	Social and outings	10,715	10,958
	Home visiting scheme	406	804
	Dorset link	2,904	1,655
	Bad debts written off	77	282
	Sight equipment vehicle expenses	8,285	6,631
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		323,904	305,070
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Share of support costs (see note 8)	101,736	95,514
	Share of governance costs (see note 8)	20,447	15,068
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		446,087	415,652
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Analysis by fund		
	Unrestricted funds - general	400,208	380,011
	Restricted funds	45,879	35,641
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		446,087	415,652
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	For the year ended 31 March 2023		
	Unrestricted funds - general	380,011	
	Restricted funds	35,641	
		<hr/>	
		415,652	
		<hr/>	

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8 Support costs	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2024 £	2023 £	Basis of allocation
Staff costs	32,639	-	32,639	31,859	Staff time
Depreciation	48,851	-	48,851	39,370	Support
Rent	3,938	-	3,938	4,610	Usage
Rates	71	-	71	160	Usage
Heat and light	749	-	749	655	Usage
Insurance	1,798	-	1,798	1,860	Usage
Telephone	484	-	484	575	Usage
Office costs	10,185	-	10,185	11,742	Usage
Bank charges	4,430	-	4,430	4,683	Usage
Legal and professional	-	21,728	21,728	16,760	Governance
Independent examiners fees	-	3,164	3,164	2,877	Governance
	<u>103,145</u>	<u>24,892</u>	<u>128,037</u>	<u>115,151</u>	
Analysed between					
Fundraising	1,409	-	1,409	-	
Trading	-	4,445	4,445	4,569	
Charitable activities	101,736	20,447	122,183	110,582	
	<u>103,145</u>	<u>24,892</u>	<u>128,037</u>	<u>115,151</u>	

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

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

10 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Administration	4	4
Service delivery	6	5
Shop staff	15	10
	<u>25</u>	<u>19</u>

Employment costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	497,273	436,049
Social security costs	32,668	30,079
Other pension costs	10,041	8,452
	<u>539,982</u>	<u>474,580</u>

Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £54,718 (2023: £52,849).

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

11 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	2024 £	2023 £
Revaluation of investments	<u>4,056</u>	<u>(21,319)</u>

12 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is, therefore, exempt from taxation.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

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

13 Property, plant and equipment	Freehold property improvements		Leasehold improvements		Fixtures, fittings & equipment		Computer Motor vehicles equipment		Total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost										
At 1 April 2023	217,981	38,366	168,700	46,865	47,365	519,277				
Additions	-	-	94,229	1,057	-	95,286				
At 31 March 2024	217,981	38,366	262,929	47,922	47,365	614,563				
Depreciation and impairment										
At 1 April 2023	2,180	38,366	114,792	46,865	26,843	229,046				
Depreciation charged in the year	2,180	-	40,484	1,057	5,130	48,851				
At 31 March 2024	4,360	38,366	155,276	47,922	31,973	277,897				
Carrying amount										
At 31 March 2024	213,621	-	107,653	-	15,392	336,666				
At 31 March 2023	215,801	-	53,909	-	20,522	290,232				

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

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

14 Fixed asset investments	2024 £	2023 £
Listed investments	<u>128,184</u>	<u>119,783</u>
	2024 £	2023 £
Listed investments carrying amount	<u>128,184</u>	<u>119,783</u>
Fixed asset investments revalued		
The historical cost of the investments is £123,722 (2023: £124,709).		
Movements in non-current investments		
		Shares £
Cost or valuation		
At 31 March 2024		119,783
Additions		45,364
Valuation changes		4,057
Disposals		<u>(41,020)</u>
At 31 March 2024		<u>128,184</u>
Carrying amount		
At 31 March 2024		<u>128,184</u>
At 31 March 2023		<u>119,783</u>
15 Financial instruments	2024 £	2023 £
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss	<u>128,184</u>	<u>119,783</u>
16 Inventories	2024 £	2023 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>12,062</u>	<u>10,117</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

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

17 Trade and other receivables		
	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade receivables	669	65
Other receivables	53,335	63,788
Prepayments and accrued income	40,922	45,155
	<u>94,926</u>	<u>109,008</u>

18 Current liabilities		
	2024	2023
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	8,392	7,690
Trade payables	8,628	6,498
Other payables	3,516	2,502
Accruals and deferred income	6,029	10,985
	<u>26,565</u>	<u>27,675</u>

19 Operating lease commitments
At 31 March 2022 the company annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Within one year	110,450	101,950
Between two and five years	398,565	379,702
In over five years	122,458	112,568
	<u>631,473</u>	<u>594,220</u>

The operating leases represent premises rent to third parties.

20 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £10,041 (2023: £8,452). These are unrestricted funds and are analysed under charitable activities.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

21 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2024
	£	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	£
Childrens Fund	4,275	51	-	4,326
National Lottery Fund	6,009	39,870	(45,879)	-
	<u>4,275</u>	<u>39,921</u>	<u>(45,879)</u>	<u>4,326</u>

Childrens Fund - this fund was transferred to the charity on the closure of another charity and will be spent on activities, equipment and other service support for visually impaired children.

National Lottery Fund - this fund represents a Reaching Communities grant towards the community support service.

22 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

VIP Diary Group	9,827	111	(1,000)	-	8,938
Shops Fund	75,000	-	-	25,000	100,000
	<u>9,827</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>(1,000)</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>108,938</u>

VIP Diary Group - this fund represents monies held on behalf of our North Dorset Club from the sale of their specialist diaries for visually impaired people to be spent as directed by the Club.

Shops Fund - this fund is to enable the opening and development of further shops in areas of Dorset considered to be strategically important. These shops will provide further hubs for Dorset Blind Association in the community and act as access points to our services, as well as generating further income to help fund delivery of those services.

23 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Designated funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:					
Property, plant and equipment	336,666	-	-	336,666	290,232
Investments	53,184	75,000	-	128,184	119,783
Current assets/(liabilities)	175,675	8,938	11,017	195,630	218,006
	<u>565,525</u>	<u>83,938</u>	<u>11,017</u>	<u>660,480</u>	<u>628,021</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

24 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel, including directors, is as follows.

	2024 £	2023 £
Aggregate compensation	<u>54,718</u>	<u>52,849</u>

Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity there were the following transactions with related parties:

During the year a number of trustees donated goods for the charity to sell in its charity shops.

25 Cash generated from operations	2024 £	2023 £
Surplus for the year	32,459	100,618
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(6,883)	(6,060)
Fair value gains and losses on investments	(4,056)	21,319
Depreciation and impairment of property, plant and equipment	48,851	39,370
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in inventories	(1,945)	(3,730)
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	14,082	(26,857)
(Decrease)/increase in trade and other payables	(1,110)	1,211
Cash generated from operations	<u><u>81,398</u></u>	<u><u>125,871</u></u>

26 Analysis of changes in net funds

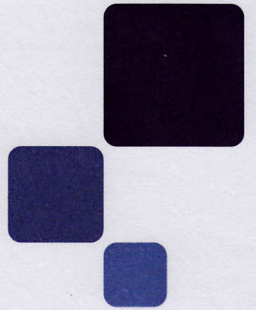
	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows At 31 March 2024 £	
Cash at bank and in hand	126,556	(11,349)	115,207
	<u>126,556</u>	<u>(11,349)</u>	<u>115,207</u>

The charity had no debt during the year.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1140321

Accounts



MorrisLane
chartered accountants

31/33 Commercial Road • Poole • Dorset • BH14 0HU
Telephone 01202 715950 • Facsimile 01202 715868
Email: mail@morrislane.co.uk • www.morrislane.co.uk

Charity Registration No. 1140321

Company Registration No. 07435564 (England and Wales)

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

President	Mr J Weld
Patrons	The Lord Fellowes of West Stafford, DL Lady Emma Kitchener-Fellowes Mr S Frears
Directors and Trustees	Mrs M L Grundmann Mrs H Rockett Mrs P L Jones Mr M Dowley Ms T L Bastard Mr J Perry Mrs Jessica Webster
Secretary	Mr J N Holyhead
Chief executive	Mr J N Holyhead
Charity number	1140321
Company number	07435564
Registered office	17 Bournemouth Road Lower Parkstone Poole Dorset BH14 0EF
Independent examiner	Morris Lane 31/33 Commercial Road Poole Dorset BH14 0HU
Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC 100 High Street Poole Dorset BH15 1BL
Solicitors	Druitts Solicitors, Borough Chambers, Fir Vale Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH1 2JE
Investment advisors	Charles Stanley & Co Ltd Vadatech House Hounslow Business Park Bulls Copse Road Southampton Hampshire SO40 9LR

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

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Notes to the financial statements	16 - 30

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Dorset Blind Association was established as an unincorporated charity in 1918 to promote the relief in need of visually impaired in the county of Dorset and to advance public education about blindness and the needs of the visually impaired. It is a registered charity (Registration number 1140321) and works closely with officers and staff of Poole Borough Council, Bournemouth Borough Council, Dorset County Council, Health Authorities across Dorset, the Royal Bournemouth Hospital Eye Unit and the Royal Eye Infirmary at the Dorset County Hospital of Dorchester.

On 10 November 2010 a new incorporated charity was set up, also called Dorset Blind Association, and on 1 April 2011 the funds, assets, liabilities and operations of the unincorporated charity were transferred to it.

Mission Statement

Helping to make life better for visually impaired people.

What services does it provide?

The main services of the Association are:

1. Advice, support and information to blind and partially sighted people and people with hearing loss in Dorset.
2. A community support service, to help people with sight loss maintain independent, healthy and socially active lives. This includes volunteers providing regular home visits.
3. A Resource Centre in Lower Parkstone, Poole providing advice on, and the facility to purchase, specialist equipment and aids to daily living designed to help people who are visually impaired or hearing impaired.
4. A mobile resource centre via the Sight Equipment Vehicles.
5. Support service at the Royal Eye Infirmary at Dorset County Hospital
6. A quarterly newsletter, 'The Dorset Link', produced in a range of accessible formats.
7. Social, Handicraft and Activity Clubs.
8. The provision of grants from voluntary funds, when funding permits.
9. Agents for the British Wireless for the Blind Fund in Dorset.
10. A Braille and audio transcription service to members and external organisations.
11. Awareness training to organisations or individuals on the needs of the visually impaired.

How is it funded?

By voluntary donations, trust funds, bequests and legacies.

By income from investments.

By National Lottery and other grants.

By members' subscriptions.

By income generated at charity shops.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)"

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are to advance public education about blindness and deafness and the needs of the visually and/or hearing impaired and to promote the relief in need of people who have a sight and/or hearing loss, in the county of Dorset and the surrounding areas. The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are detailed in the reports presented by the Chairman, Chief Executive and Treasurer.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake and for the public benefit.

The charity achieves its mission statement and purposes through the provision of a variety of activities, services, help and support for visually impaired people of Dorset, all of which aim to help those people to maintain healthy, independent and socially inclusive lives notwithstanding the impact of the loss of sight.

Sight Loss in Dorset

It is important to understand the scale of sight loss in Dorset and the challenge this presents, as this creates the need for the Dorset Blind Association to exist and to remain vibrant and sustainable.

Being blind or partially sighted has a significant impact on people's ability to live independently, to access shops and community facilities, to use public transport and to play an active part in society. Sight loss does not come in isolation and is often accompanied by other health issues. It can often also have a real impact on people's emotional wellbeing.

All of these challenges were significantly magnified by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The total population of Dorset is now almost 780,000. It is an ageing population, with a higher than national average number of people of retirement age and this is set to rise.

Latest available statistics tell us that there are over 4,400 people registered as blind or partially sighted in Dorset.

Of these people over 70% are aged 75 years or older and almost 20% are of working age.

Including the people who are registered as blind or partially sighted, there are an estimated 33,900 people living in Dorset with sight loss, which is equivalent to nearly 4.4% of the county's population.

This number is predicted to continue to rise for the foreseeable future.

The expected increase in the number of people affected by and living with sight loss is strongly linked to the demographics of Dorset, with increased life expectancy certain to result in greater numbers of people affected by conditions such as age-related macular degeneration.

Demand for services to support people suffering from sight loss is already significant, has increased noticeably during the pandemic as services provided by other organisations were stopped or withdrawn and is certain to continue to increase in the medium and longer term.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Chairperson's report 2022/23

I am proud to say we have continued to consolidate the improvements and adaptations we made during these last few years and build on our achievements. The services provided to our members and the wider community have continued to deliver invaluable support to people with sight loss across Dorset. The decision the Board of Trustees had taken, on the recommendation of our CEO, to pursue the Charity Shop model that incorporates an equipment hub has proven to be very successful in generating a large proportion of the income needed to deliver our services as well as greatly increasing awareness of the Charity and generating community support. This is an area that we are committed to develop and extend as and when appropriate.

We are very grateful to the organisations and businesses, as well as individuals, who continued to support us through this past year and into the future. Without their support, and that of our members, volunteers and patrons, we would not be able to deliver and continually improve our services.

Our board is charged with overseeing and directing the course of the Dorset Blind Association and in doing so, we continue to adapt to meet the needs of the people we serve in a changing and challenging financial and political environment where service cuts elsewhere have increased demand. We seek to serve as diverse a population of people with sight loss as possible and that includes not only older people, who make up the majority of our service users, but people of working age who have different and more varied needs. We applaud our CEO and staff for always looking for ways to make our services more relevant and inclusive to the people we serve.

Our diverse Board of Trustees includes people from different professions, who give us the benefit of their expertise. Additionally, our Visually Impaired Trustees offer both their professional expertise and personal experience of sight loss. As two of our Trustees also have hearing loss, they bring an understanding of the challenges faced by the people we serve that experience both sight and hearing loss. Some of our Trustees have served the Charity as volunteers or staff member, giving us a better understanding of the realities faced on the ground by our staff and volunteers. All of these people together make for a very potent and effective mix of talents and perspectives that will ensure we can offer the best guidance and direction possible to support the growth and sustainability of Dorset Blind Association for many years to come.

I will leave it to our CEO's and Treasurer's report to give details of our financial and programme achievements for the past year. We continue to benefit from the dedication, talents and stewardship of our CEO, Jonathan Holyhead. Jonathan continues to achieve a great deal of success in securing the grants and other income that make the running of the organisation possible. These are crucial, as we could never survive based on our much-valued membership fees, donations, legacies and fundraising efforts alone. Fundraising especially has been severely limited since the beginning of Covid 19 shut down our ability to hold events but we have developed that area again in a sustainable way that also promotes general awareness of our Charity.

Jonathan continues to lead our wonderful and dedicated team of both service and shop staff and over 350 volunteers that make the actual delivery of our services possible. Each and every one of these individuals goes above and beyond to deliver the very best to the people with sight loss, their families and carers throughout Dorset. I speak for the entire Board in thanking them for their exemplary service.

Maria Grundmann
Chairperson

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Chief Executive Officer's report 2022/23

Welcome to my 18th Annual Report for the Dorset Blind Association. This is the fourth report I have given since the Coronavirus pandemic had such a significant impact on everyone's lives and while during this past year that impact has been substantially less, it still continues to be relevant to how we run the Dorset Blind Association, most especially in continuing to make us much more conscious about needing to be prepared as best we can for the unexpected. While, therefore, this report will, as usual, look back over the past year, I will again be placing a greater than normal emphasis on also looking ahead, and again with an emphasis on the vitally important areas of how we will work to maintain our services and strive to ensure our charity's financial robustness and stability for the future.

It is always nice to be able to start my report on a positive note, and I am very pleased to say that this is again the case for 2022/23. Last year was another successful year for Dorset Blind Association, both delivering strongly on its core purpose and mission and with a strong, positive financial performance too. Demand for all of our services has continued to grow. Much of that increased demand has been driven by more people that ever turning to DBA where services once provided by other charities, or by local health service or government, are reduced or even fully withdrawn. We find ourselves increasingly picking up the pieces others leave behind and as a local charity, with real, constant and unbreakable links to our community and people, we are determined to always be there to help people whom others may have abandoned. Our service delivery methods have now settled into a mix of the old and the new, a mix of some of the ways we worked pre-pandemic and some ways which we introduced during the pandemic and this blended, hybrid model ensures that our staff and volunteers still support significant numbers of blind and partially sighted people in all areas of Dorset and with that support still achieving good, positive outcomes.

Our charity shops performed extremely well during the year and provided over £540,000 of our income. We successfully opened our sixth shop at Weymouth and by the end of the year we were progressing with plans to open not only a seventh shop, but also an eighth. Those further shops will be at Easton, on Portland, and at Bridport and we hope to open Easton during the summer of 2023 and Bridport by early autumn. Opening on Portland and in Bridport will further deliver on a promise I made to our members that we will extend our physical presence for Dorset Blind Association in the west of the county. The shops continue to help us to broaden our reach into the community even further, give additional access points for people needing our services and help significantly to increase the awareness of our work and how we help people.

The shops helped us achieve another record year for overall income, with that also significantly helped again by good legacy receipts and extremely kind and invaluable support from a range of other funders. After expenditure and all other adjustments we ended the year with a surplus roughly equivalent to 10% of our turnover. This helps meet the development costs of the further shops at Easton and Bridport, so is positively invested for the future.

During the year we were also able to purchase the freehold of the building where we have our shop in Southbourne, so that shop no longer has a rent liability. Completing this purchase both achieves a good, ongoing yield on the capital funds invested in this way and has helped to further strengthen our balance sheet.

In any report I give about our charity I think it is always worth reminding ourselves early on why the Dorset Blind Association exists and the significant extent of sight loss in the county. As recorded earlier in this Report, there are more than 4,400 people living in Dorset today who are registered as blind or partially sighted and, in total, an estimated 33,900 people living in the county with sight loss which affects the quality of their life on a day to day basis. Those people need access to support which helps them to come to terms with their loss of sight, to then face and overcome the challenges which serious sight loss presents and to continue to live active, independent lives in their local community.

It is the purpose of the Dorset Blind Association to provide that support and help enable those people to still have a good quality of life and to maintain a good sense of well-being.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

To achieve this purpose Dorset Blind Association provides a range of services which help people to come to terms with the emotional challenges associated with sight loss and to then deal with the practical issues which sight loss cause. As well as trying to help the person suffering sight loss themselves, we also hope that our services can positively help their friends, family and carers too. We treat each person we help as an individual, working with them in partnership to address their unique needs and we always try to put people with sight loss at the centre of all that we do.

As well as being practical in its nature, we pride ourselves that the support we give is also always flexible and, where appropriate, we are willing to be innovative. We aren't afraid to try something new if we think it will help to make a positive difference. Without ever compromising people's safety, there are times when the best result is achieved by taking controlled, calculated risks and trying a different approach.

Finally, we recognise that services we provide are not always the best or most appropriate for some of the visually impaired people we help and so we regularly refer people on to other sources of help, either as part of a package with our services or sometimes as the unique solution for their needs. Through this approach we have developed and maintain excellent referral relationships with many other local and national charities and with local health and social care agencies.

We consider ourselves to be a caring organisation, nurturing and encouraging people to do things for themselves, to develop their independence. Indeed, it is a core part of our ethos that kindness to our members and all those who turn to us for help should be an absolute bedrock of all we do. Being kind to people shows we care, and they matter.

We also consider ourselves to be progressive and a charity where everyone is made to feel welcome and valued and where volunteers and staff feel the satisfaction of knowing that they are really making a positive difference to the lives of others.

For many people it continues to be essential that our help and support is not time limited in any way. Regular evaluation of our services and feedback from our members tells us that people want a holistic service, as individually person-centred as possible, which is continuous and responsive to their changing needs over time. So we will provide help for as long as it is needed, to recognise that people's needs change and alter over time, as their level of sight may continue to worsen and also other physical health challenges impact more greatly as people age.

Our core services have been developed over a number of years now and continue to adapt and evolve how they work to help visually impaired people across Dorset. Our services achieve a broad range of positive outcomes for the service user. For some the impact can be tiny, for others huge but in every case we work through our staff and volunteers to try and achieve the best outcome we can for that person. Alongside kindness, we also try to work to an approach where for everyone, whatever their needs, we can say that in our efforts to help them, whatever was possible has been done.

Our various services continue to work towards helping people to remain living independently at home and actively in their local community, including access to social opportunities and through these the ability to build and benefit from a good peer support network.

We recognise the importance of trying to be guided by our members in how the charity operates and to reflect their views in both maintaining existing services and in any new services we are able to provide. Our Board of Directors and Trustees includes visually impaired people and we use regular consultation with our members and volunteers, both formal and informal, to help inform decisions about ongoing and future service provision, as well as our Impact Report.

Our ability to deliver our services and all the extremely positive outcomes these achieve is always dependent on maintaining our key resources, the two most important of which are our people and our income.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

We continue to be blessed by a wonderful team of volunteers who give so generously of their time to help provide our services and we are so grateful for all they do. Our volunteer numbers grew again during the year and I like to think that our continuing ability to recruit volunteers, and retain many for long periods, reflects a combination of being a local charity, providing a wide range of different volunteering opportunities, the effectiveness of our staff in motivating people to join us and the satisfaction our volunteers gain from what they do. Our volunteers are extremely kind and generous people, giving freely of their time, energy and skills to help others and it remains a source of great pride to us all that we hold The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. On behalf of each and every visually impaired person we help, I take this opportunity to publicly thank our volunteers as a whole group and also record how much all of the charity's staff team enjoy working with you and value your dedication and friendship.

I would also like to thank our Board of Directors and Trustees for all they do, individually and as a group, to support Dorset Blind Association. Their support for me personally is always hugely appreciated and I value the trust they place in me. They are critical friends, quite rightly wanting to question and interrogate decisions I take in my day-to-day management of the charity and to be consulted and fully involved in strategic planning and decision making. Their commitment to the charity should be commended, especially the length of time they individually and collectively have served in this role, reflecting, I think, the personal satisfaction each takes from helping our charity to thrive under their stewardship.

I would also like to recognise and give appreciation for the continuing and extremely kind support we receive from our President, James Weld and our Patrons, Julian and Emma Fellowes and Stephen Frears. Individually and collectively they also provide a range of valuable and vital support for Dorset Blind Association, often in ways which go unseen by the majority. They are all genuinely concerned to see the charity prosper and thrive and are very generous and effective supporters. We are very grateful for their continuing support and I take this opportunity to publicly thank them for that.

Last but certainly not least, when talking of our people assets I must also report another year where our staff have, yet again, individually and collectively delivered far and beyond the call of duty. For anyone reading my reports for previous years, I sound a little like a record stuck in the groove when I mention my staff colleagues, but it really is the case that they are a wonderful asset for our charity and make so much of what we do possible. Your charity benefits hugely from how all staff pull together to work as a team, always responding positively and energetically to the challenges we face and I am always enormously grateful for the hard work they all put in and for the support they all give me in my role. Again, on behalf of each and every visually impaired person we help, I take this opportunity to publicly thank them.

Financial performance during 2022/23 was, as I have already mentioned, again strong and we again achieved a record income total. Our expenditure was higher than in the previous year, reflecting services and activities increasing again and the additional costs of our Weymouth shop. After all adjustments we ended the year with a surplus of £100,478. This helped fund the purchase of the freehold of our Southbourne shop and will be used towards our new shops at Easton and Bridport, so will be invested to help generate further funds to pay for ongoing service delivery in the future.

A key aspect of our approach to funding Dorset Blind Association has always been to try and generate income from a board platform of sources and never becoming too dependent or over reliant on any one single source, as we consider this best helps to provide stability. Our charity shop project certainly helps with this and the growing income from those shops now sits as a significant contributor to our overall financing, alongside the other important areas of members fees and donations, legacy income and grants and funding from the National Lottery and many grant making Trusts and Foundations.

We are always grateful for all the income and other resources which come into the charity. We are especially grateful to the National Lottery for continuing to support our work currently with a grant towards our community support work across Dorset for people of working age. We are similarly grateful to the many grant making Trusts and Foundations which have given to us. None of this support is ever taken for granted, we always thank all who give to us and we continue to work hard to justify the support and to show to all funders that the resources they kindly give us are well used and to good effect.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Last year was also another good year for legacy receipts and I hope that the amounts we have received from this source for the past few years now marks a pattern which will be ongoing. It is, of course, always difficult to reflect that receipts of this nature must mean that someone has sadly died, but the fact that increasing numbers of people are choosing to support Dorset Blind Association in this final way in their Will is, I hope, a positive reflection on the quality and positive impact of our services and support. If we continue to receive legacy income at broadly the levels of the past two years, current service provision would almost certainly be guaranteed and there would also be scope to grow these further.

Our immediate future is exciting. The two further shops will extend our physical presence in the west of Dorset and if they can perform as well as our existing other shops then we should during 2022/23 add further staff resources to our service delivery capacity and, most importantly, then sustain that.

Our finances have improved and strengthened significantly in the past few years, which is as a direct result of the performance of the shops, combined with good legacy income and income from other sources. We have strengthened our balance sheet and we enjoy good, strong and regular positive cash flow. All of this took hard work to achieve and will always take hard work to maintain, but I believe this is an area we can continue to improve further and that will continue to be one of my key personal goals for Dorset Blind Association for the immediately foreseeable future.

In conclusion I think we can all look back on the year 2022/2023 as another year which was positive and where we certainly delivered very effectively on our core purpose. As always for Dorset Blind Association this was achieved through a real team effort with a great many people playing their part and contributing. We continued to deliver vitally important and much needed support for our service users throughout Dorset and achieved this alongside another strong financial performance. We ended the year looking very positively forward to further growth and development and through that we can look forward to supporting our community even more.

Jonathan Holyhead
Chief Executive Officer.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Treasurer's Report 2022/23

I am pleased to report that the Dorset Blind Association has achieved another record year for income, with total income of £949,167 compared to last year's total of £728,607. After all the expenditure and other financial adjustments the year finished with a surplus of £100,478 compared to last years of £35,678.

Any year which ends with a surplus should be acknowledged as good, in financial terms at least, so our financial year 2022/2023 should be seen as that and on that basis alone should be celebrated as positive.

Legacy receipts increased this year by £93,138 which is excellent. This by itself almost accounts for the years surplus, so it shows again how important strong legacy receipts are to our overall funding mix. This is an area of income that is unpredictable as we are never totally sure what will be received during the year. We therefore need to always be careful to not become reliant on legacy income and this is where our shops are becoming increasingly more important.

The shops have performed very well. The income that they have generated has increased by £136,900. This is excellent news and all the staff and volunteers should be thanked for all their hard work. Without them I don't think we would have done as well.

Other areas of income generation continue to be important, including grants, community fundraising and membership fees and donations. All these areas contribute significantly to our overall funding and each showed an increase against the previous year, which is pleasing.

Our expenditure has increased this year due to opening our Weymouth shop with rent increases and increased staff costs, as well as increasing our service delivery to members. We are in the process of opening a shop in Portland and planning to also open in Bridport. We also hope to increase staff resources for our service delivery, so we fully expect expenditure to increase again next year, but with further shop income to offset this.

Going forward, I am confident that if we continue to deliver our plans to sustainably expand our shops and maintain and grow our other sources of income then our financial position will remain positive.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and the volunteers that support us as without them we wouldn't be where we are today and alongside that I would also like to say thank you to my fellow Trustees who give their expertise in helping the DBA to move forward and last but not least I would like to thank our CEO. Without his commitment and efforts we certainly wouldn't be in the comparatively strong position we are now.

Heidi Rockett
Hon Treasurer

Achievements and performance

Financial review

The results are summarised on page 12. Total income increased from £728,607 in the previous year to £949,307. This is mainly due to the increase in legacy receipts and an increase in income generated from the charity shops.

Expenditure has increased from £691,003 in the previous year to £827,370. This is mainly due to the opening of our Weymouth shop and an increase in service delivery.

The Trustees are aware that all expenditure must be monitored on a regular basis and they have budgeted for it to increase in year 2023/2024 as we are due to open further shops at Easton, Portland and in Bridport and again plan to increase our service delivery.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Reserves policy

In determining the Association's Reserve Policy, the Trustees have taken into account inter alia:-

- the unpredictable nature of income from donations and gifts;
- that it would be very undesirable to have to cut off services on which the visually or hearing impaired rely.

The Trustees have agreed the Association's Reserve Policy as:-

- a minimum of six months unrestricted operating expenditure;
- commitments such as redundancy or rental charges which would need to be met if the Association ceased to exist.

The policy is consistently reviewed and, if necessary, revised at least annually when the financial statements are approved.

The purpose of the designation for designated funds of the charity is detailed in note 23.

The charity considers free reserves can include designated funds as there is no obligation on the charity to hold these as designated if the need arose to use these. As at 31 March 2023 they were £327,505. This is less than the £400,000 to meet the operating expenditure required per the policy, the Trustees are comfortable that with the regular positive cash flow from the charity shops they will generate funds to meet this level.

The unrestricted funds of the charity are £532,910. The trustees will continue to monitor the level of reserves.

Investment policy

The trustees acknowledge the role played by investment income as an element of the Association's overall income needs. They have appointed a firm of stockbrokers, Charles Stanley, to manage a portfolio of investments on their behalf. Decisions regarding the purchase or sale of any investment are made only after taking into consideration professional advice obtained from this firm. Investments held comprise a balanced portfolio with a low to medium level of risk. The current portfolio is 60% medium risk and 40% low risk.

As income from investments is not currently needed for meeting running costs the Trustees have instructed Charles Stanley to retain dividends and reinvest these, to help further boost the value of the investment portfolio held over time.

Risk management

The Trustees have always reviewed the nature of major risks to which the Charity may be exposed from time to time and as a consequence they have designed and established systems aimed at managing those risks.

Recognising that the situations arising with COVID-19 and cost of living crisis, the potential risks are constantly evolving and changing, risk review is now undertaken on a more frequent basis, almost continuously by the Charity Chief Executive Officer, with further mitigating actions taken on an ongoing basis as felt necessary and the CEO reporting on this to each Trustees meeting.

Plans for the future

The Trustees recognise the need to develop a broad range of sustainable income streams to support the future work of the Association and they are developing plans to work towards this aim.

They are also giving thought to the strategic direction which the work of the Charity should take and the potential value of partnerships and other co-operative working arrangements with other charities to help achieve this.

The charity has now opened 6 charity shops and is considering adding further in the future to try and grow the physical presence of the charity in Dorset and potentially provide further bases to support an increase in the delivery of community support services.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Structure, governance and management

The Association is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee. Directors are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and those Directors are the Trustees of the Charity.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

Mrs M L Grundmann
Mrs H Rockett
Mrs P L Jones
Mr M Dowley
Ms T L Bastard
Mr J Perry
Mrs Jessica Webster

They are recruited and trained by a variety of means, including a handbook supplemented by in-house training. Management of the affairs of the Association is vested in the Board of Directors who may appoint such sub-committee and staff as may seem fit. The Management Committee in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer have delegated authority for the day to day management of the Association and report back to the Board of Directors on a regular basis.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute such sum (not exceeding £10) as may be demanded in the event of its being wound up while, he/she is a member, towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the charity and towards the costs, charges and expenses of winding up.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Mrs M L Grundmann

Chairman

Dated: 17/8/2023

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Dorset Blind Association (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity 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 the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

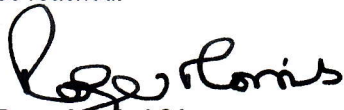
Independent examiner's statement

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 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 financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their 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 financial statements to be reached.



Roger Morris ACA
Morris Lane

31/33 Commercial Road
Poole
Dorset
BH14 0HU

Dated: 21 August 2023

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>						
Donations and legacies	2	322,404	-	41,650	364,054	270,776
Charitable activities	3	595	-	-	595	153
Other trading activities	4	578,598	-	-	578,598	427,198
Investments	5	6,029	22	9	6,060	4,576
Other income	6	-	-	-	-	25,904
Total income		907,626	22	41,659	949,307	728,607
<u>Expenditure on:</u>						
Raising funds	7	411,718	-	-	411,718	325,895
Charitable activities	8	380,011	-	35,641	415,652	365,138
Total resources expended		791,729	-	35,641	827,370	691,033
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	(21,319)	-	-	(21,319)	(1,896)
Net incoming resources before transfers		94,578	22	6,018	100,618	35,678
Gross transfers between funds		1,000	(1,000)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		95,578	(978)	6,018	100,618	35,678
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		437,332	85,805	4,266	527,403	491,725
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		532,910	84,827	10,284	628,021	527,403

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Property, plant and equipment	14		290,232		75,681
Investments	15		119,783		236,052
			<u>410,015</u>		<u>311,733</u>
Current assets					
Inventories	17	10,117		6,387	
Trade and other receivables	18	109,008		82,151	
Cash at bank and in hand		126,556		153,596	
		<u>245,681</u>		<u>242,134</u>	
Current liabilities	19	(27,675)		(26,464)	
Net current assets			218,006		215,670
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>628,021</u>		<u>527,403</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	22		10,284		4,266
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	23	84,827		85,805	
General unrestricted funds		532,910		437,332	
			<u>617,737</u>		<u>523,137</u>
			<u>628,021</u>		<u>527,403</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

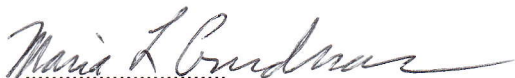
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The director acknowledges his responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 17/8/2023



Mrs M L Grundmann

Trustee

Company Registration No. 07435564

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	26		125,871		84,413
Investing activities					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(253,921)		(52,921)	
Purchase of investments		(43,450)		(159,086)	
Proceeds on disposal of investments		138,400		39,816	
Investment income received		6,060		4,576	
Net cash used in investing activities			(152,911)		(167,615)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents			(27,040)		(83,202)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			153,596		236,798
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			126,556		153,596

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Dorset Blind Association is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 17 Bournemouth Road, Lower Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, BH14 0EF.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Incoming resources

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

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

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

Assets for distribution are recognised only when distributed. Assets given for use by the charity are recognised when receivable. Stocks of undistributed donated goods are not valued for balance sheet purposes.

Shop income and income derived from events is recognised as earned (that is, as the related goods or services are provided).

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Costs of generating funds are the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be attributed directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Included within support costs are governance costs including the preparation of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustees' meetings and the cost of any legal advice on governance or constitutional matters.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

1.6 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

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

Freehold property	50 years straight line
Leasehold improvements	10 years straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	5 years straight line
Computer equipment	100%
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Non-current investments

Fixed asset investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date.

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent costs, and are charged or credited to the statement of financial activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are charged or credited to the statement of financial position based on the market value at the year end.

1.8 Impairment of non-current assets

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

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in income/ (expenditure for the year, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately, unless the relevant asset is carried in at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

1.9 Inventories

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

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.11 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

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

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

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

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.12 Employee benefits

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

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

1.13 Retirement benefits

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

1.14 Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases whenever the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the lessees. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Assets held under finance leases are recognised as assets at the lower of the assets fair value at the date of inception and the present value of the minimum lease payments. The related liability is included in the statement of financial position as a finance lease obligation. Lease payments are treated as consisting of capital and interest elements. The interest is charged to net income/(expenditure) for the year so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability.

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds general £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations and gifts	41,269	-	41,269	29,031
Legacies receivable	176,251	-	176,251	110,904
Grants receivable	104,884	41,650	146,534	130,841
	<u>322,404</u>	<u>41,650</u>	<u>364,054</u>	<u>270,776</u>
For the year ended 31 March 2022	<u>239,146</u>	<u>31,630</u>		<u>270,776</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3 Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Transcription income	595	153

4 Other trading activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Fundraising events	37,822	23,322
Shop income	540,776	403,876
Other trading activities	578,598	427,198

Included in the shop income are amounts relating to the the sale of new and used equipment specifically designed to aid blind and partially sighted people as per the mission statement of the charity.

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from listed investments	4,608	-	-	4,608	3,731
Interest receivable	1,421	22	9	1,452	845
	<u>6,029</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6,060</u>	<u>4,576</u>

6 Other income

	2023 £	2022 £
Other income	-	25,904

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

7 Raising funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Other fundraising costs	11,901	735
Support costs	-	497
	<u>11,901</u>	<u>1,232</u>
Fundraising and publicity	11,901	1,232
<u>Trading costs</u>		
Operating charity shops	179,888	156,457
Staff costs	213,066	161,884
Support costs	4,569	3,923
	<u>397,523</u>	<u>322,264</u>
Trading costs	397,523	322,264
<u>Investment management</u>	2,294	866
	<u>411,718</u>	<u>325,895</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

8 Charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs	229,655	202,335
Shop and office costs	2,568	4,414
Staff travelling, expenses and training	15,507	12,890
Rent	24,485	21,563
Rates	480	245
Heat and light	4,741	3,457
Insurance	5,581	5,887
Telephone	1,723	1,899
Social and outings	10,958	2,412
Home visiting scheme	804	510
Dorset link	1,655	939
Bad debts written off	282	140
Sight equipment vehicle expenses	6,631	4,788
	<u>305,070</u>	<u>261,479</u>
Share of support costs (see note 9)	95,514	88,975
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	15,068	14,684
	<u>415,652</u>	<u>365,138</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	380,011	333,508
Restricted funds	35,641	31,630
	<u>415,652</u>	<u>365,138</u>
For the year ended 31 March 2022		
Unrestricted funds - general	333,508	
Restricted funds	31,630	
	<u>365,138</u>	

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

9 Support costs	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	2022	Basis of allocation
	£	£	£	£	
Staff costs	31,859	-	31,859	29,184	Staff time
Depreciation	39,370	-	39,370	38,046	Support
Rent	4,610	-	4,610	4,626	Usage
Rates	160	-	160	82	Usage
Heat and light	655	-	655	484	Usage
Insurance	1,860	-	1,860	1,963	Usage
Telephone	575	-	575	633	Usage
Office costs	11,742	-	11,742	11,194	Usage
Bank charges	4,683	-	4,683	3,260	Usage
Legal and professional	-	16,760	16,760	15,527	Governance
Independent examiners fees	-	2,877	2,877	3,080	Governance
	<u>95,514</u>	<u>19,637</u>	<u>115,151</u>	<u>108,079</u>	
Analysed between					
Fundraising	-	-	-	497	
Trading	-	4,569	4,569	3,923	
Charitable activities	95,514	15,068	110,582	103,659	
	<u>95,514</u>	<u>19,637</u>	<u>115,151</u>	<u>108,079</u>	

10 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

11 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Administration	4	4
Service delivery	5	5
Shop staff	10	10
	<u>19</u>	<u>19</u>

Employment costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	436,049	277,690
Social security costs	30,079	19,475
Other pension costs	8,452	3,880
	<u>474,580</u>	<u>393,403</u>

Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £52,849 (2022: £50,597).

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

12 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Revaluation of investments	<u>(21,319)</u>	<u>(1,896)</u>

13 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is, therefore, exempt from taxation.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

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

14 Property, plant and equipment		Freehold property improvements	Leasehold improvements	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Computer/Motor equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost							
At 1 April 2022		-	38,366	136,245	43,381	47,365	265,357
Additions		217,981	-	32,456	3,484	-	253,921
At 31 March 2023		217,981	38,366	168,701	46,865	47,365	519,278
Depreciation and impairment							
At 1 April 2022		-	38,366	87,926	43,381	20,003	189,676
Depreciation charged in the year		2,180	-	26,866	3,484	6,840	39,370
At 31 March 2023		2,180	38,366	114,792	46,865	26,843	229,046
Carrying amount							
At 31 March 2023		215,801	-	53,909	-	20,522	290,232
At 31 March 2022		-	-	48,319	-	27,362	75,681

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

15 Fixed asset investments	2023	2022
	£	£
Listed investments	119,783	236,052
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	2023	2022
	£	£
Listed investments carrying amount	119,783	236,052
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Fixed asset investments revalued		
The historical cost of the investments is £124,709 (2022: £232,330).		
Movements in non-current investments		
		Shares
		£
Cost or valuation		
At 31 March 2023		236,052
Additions		43,270
Valuation changes		(21,139)
Disposals		(138,400)
		<u> </u>
At 31 March 2023		119,783
		<u> </u>
Carrying amount		
At 31 March 2023		119,783
		<u> </u>
At 31 March 2022		236,052
		<u> </u>
16 Financial instruments	2023	2022
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss	119,783	236,052
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
17 Inventories	2023	2022
	£	£
Finished goods and goods for resale	10,117	6,387
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

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

18 Trade and other receivables	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade receivables	65	4,198
Other receivables	63,788	49,225
Prepayments and accrued income	45,155	28,728
	<u>109,008</u>	<u>82,151</u>
	<u><u>109,008</u></u>	<u><u>82,151</u></u>
19 Current liabilities	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	7,690	5,890
Trade payables	6,498	8,258
Other payables	2,502	1,983
Accruals and deferred income	10,985	10,333
	<u>27,675</u>	<u>26,464</u>
	<u><u>27,675</u></u>	<u><u>26,464</u></u>
20 Operating lease commitments		
At 31 March 2022 the company annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:		
	2023	2022
	£	£
Within one year	101,950	101,950
Between two and five years	379,702	407,800
In over five years	112,568	185,790
	<u>594,220</u>	<u>695,540</u>
	<u><u>594,220</u></u>	<u><u>695,540</u></u>

The operating leases represent premises rent to third parties.

21 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £8,589 (2022: £5,935). These are unrestricted funds and are analysed under charitable activities.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

22 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Childrens Fund	4,266	9	-	4,275
Lloyds Foundation for England and Wales	-	41,650	(35,641)	6,009
	<u>4,266</u>	<u>41,659</u>	<u>(35,641)</u>	<u>10,284</u>

Childrens Fund - this fund was transferred to the charity on the closure of another charity and will be spent on activities, equipment and other service support for visually impaired children.

National Lottery Fund - this fund represents a Reaching Communities grant towards the community support service.

23 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

VIP Diary Group	10,805	22	(1,000)	9,827
Shops Fund	75,000	-	-	75,000
	<u>85,805</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>(1,000)</u>	<u>84,827</u>

VIP Diary Group - this fund represents monies held on behalf of our North Dorset Club from the sale of their specialist diaries for visually impaired people to be spent as directed by the Club.

Shops Fund - this fund is to enable the opening and development of further shops in areas of Dorset considered to be strategically important. These shops will provide further hubs for Dorset Blind Association in the community and act as access points to our services, as well as generating further income to help fund delivery of those services.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

24 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Designated funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:					
Property, plant and equipment	290,232	-	-	290,232	75,681
Investments	44,783	75,000	-	119,783	236,052
Current assets/(liabilities)	197,895	9,827	10,284	218,006	215,670
	<u>532,910</u>	<u>84,827</u>	<u>10,284</u>	<u>628,021</u>	<u>527,403</u>

25 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel, including directors, is as follows.

	2023 £	2022 £
Aggregate compensation	<u>52,849</u>	<u>50,597</u>

Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity there were the following transactions with related parties:

	Purchase of goods	
	2023 £	2022 £
Other related parties	<u>-</u>	<u>5,010</u>

During the year a number of trustees donated goods for the charity to sell in its charity shops.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

26	Cash generated from operations	2023	2022
		£	£
	Surplus for the year	100,618	35,678
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(6,060)	(4,576)
	Fair value gains and losses on investments	21,319	1,896
	Depreciation and impairment of property, plant and equipment	39,370	38,046
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase) in inventories	(3,730)	(1,009)
	(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(26,857)	9,463
	Increase in trade and other payables	1,211	4,915
	Cash generated from operations	125,871	84,413

27	Analysis of changes in net funds	At 1 April 2022	Cash flows	At 31 March 2023
		£	£	£
	Cash at bank and in hand	153,596	(27,040)	126,556
		<u>153,596</u>	<u>(27,040)</u>	<u>126,556</u>
		<u>153,596</u>	<u>(27,040)</u>	<u>126,556</u>

The charity had no debt during the year.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1140321

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1140321

Company Registration No. 07435564 (England and Wales)

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

President	Mr J Weld
Patrons	The Lord Fellowes of West Stafford, DL Lady Emma Kitchener-Fellowes Mr S Frears
Directors and Trustees	Mrs M L Grundmann Mrs H Rockett Mrs P L Jones Mr M Dowley Ms T L Bastard Mr J Perry Mrs Jessica Webster
Secretary	Mr J N Holyhead
Chief executive	Mr J N Holyhead
Charity number	1140321
Company number	07435564
Registered office	17 Bournemouth Road Lower Parkstone Poole Dorset BH14 0EF
Independent examiner	Morris Lane 31/33 Commercial Road Poole Dorset BH14 0HU
Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC 204 Lower Blandford Road Broadstone Dorset BH18 8DS
Solicitors	Druitts Solicitors, Borough Chambers, Fir Vale Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH1 2JE

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Investment advisors

Charles Stanley & Co Ltd
Vadatech House
Hounslow Business Park
Bulls Copse Road
Southampton
Hampshire
SO40 9LR

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

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DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Dorset Blind Association was established as an unincorporated charity in 1918 to promote the relief in need of visually impaired in the county of Dorset and to advance public education about blindness and the needs of the visually impaired. It is a registered charity (Registration number 1140321) and works closely with officers and staff of Poole Borough Council, Bournemouth Borough Council, Dorset County Council, Health Authorities across Dorset, the Royal Bournemouth Hospital Eye Unit and the Royal Eye Infirmary at the Dorset County Hospital of Dorchester.

On 10 November 2010 a new incorporated charity was set up, also called Dorset Blind Association, and on 1 April 2011 the funds, assets, liabilities and operations of the unincorporated charity were transferred to it.

Mission Statement

Helping to make life better for visually impaired people.

What services does it provide?

The main services of the Association are:

1. Advice, support and information to blind and partially sighted people and people with hearing loss in Dorset.
2. A community support service, to help people with sight loss maintain independent, healthy and socially active lives. This includes volunteers providing regular home visits.
3. A Resource Centre in Lower Parkstone, Poole providing advice on, and the facility to purchase, specialist equipment and aids to daily living designed to help people who are visually impaired or hearing impaired.
4. A mobile resource centre via the Sight Equipment Vehicles.
5. Support service at the Royal Eye Infirmary at Dorset County Hospital
6. A quarterly newsletter, 'The Dorset Link', produced in a range of accessible formats.
7. Social, Handicraft and Activity Clubs.
8. The provision of grants from voluntary funds, when funding permits.
9. Agents for the British Wireless for the Blind Fund in Dorset.
10. A Braille and audio transcription service to members and external organisations.
11. Awareness training to organisations or individuals on the needs of the visually impaired.

How is it funded?

By voluntary donations, trust funds, bequests and legacies.

By income from investments.

By National Lottery and other grants.

By members' subscriptions.

By income generated at charity shops.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)"

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are to advance public education about blindness and deafness and the needs of the visually and/or hearing impaired and to promote the relief in need of people who have a sight and/or hearing loss, in the county of Dorset and the surrounding areas. The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are detailed in the reports presented by the Chairman, Chief Executive and Treasurer.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake and for the public benefit.

The charity achieves its mission statement and purposes through the provision of a variety of activities, services, help and support for visually impaired people of Dorset, all of which aim to help those people to maintain healthy, independent and socially inclusive lives notwithstanding the impact of the loss of sight.

Sight Loss in Dorset

It is important to understand the scale of sight loss in Dorset and the challenge this presents, as this creates the need for the Dorset Blind Association to exist and to remain vibrant and sustainable.

Being blind or partially sighted has a significant impact on people's ability to live independently, to access shops and community facilities, to use public transport and to play an active part in society. Sight loss does not come in isolation and is often accompanied by other health issues. It can often also have a real impact on people's emotional wellbeing.

All of these challenges have been magnified by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The total population of Dorset is now over 773,000. It is an ageing population with a higher than national average number of people of retirement age and this is set to rise.

Latest available statistics tell us that there are over 4,400 people registered as blind or partially sighted in Dorset.

Of these people over 70% are aged 75 years or older and almost 20% are of working age.

Including the people who are registered as blind or partially sighted, there are an estimated 33,900 people living in Dorset with sight loss, which is equivalent to nearly 4.4% of the county's population.

This number is predicted to continue to rise for the foreseeable future.

The expected increase in the number of people affected by and living with sight loss is strongly linked to the demographics of Dorset, with increased life expectancy certain to result in greater numbers of people affected by conditions such as age-related macular degeneration.

Demand for services to support people suffering from sight loss is already significant and is certain to increase noticeably in the medium and longer term.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Chairperson's report 2021/22

In this, our third annual report since the start of the Covid pandemic, I am proud to say we have continued to consolidate the improvements and adaptations we made during these last few years and build on our achievements. The services provided to our members and the wider community have continued to deliver invaluable support to people with sight loss across Dorset. The decision the Board of Trustees had taken, on the recommendation of our CEO, to pursue the Charity Shop model that incorporates an equipment hub has proven to be very successful in generating a large proportion of the income needed to deliver our services as well as greatly increasing awareness of the Charity and generating community support. This is an area that we are committed to develop and extend as and when appropriate.

We are very grateful to the organisations and businesses, as well as individuals, who continued to support us through this past year and into the future. Without their support, and that of our members, volunteers and patrons, we would not be able to deliver and continually improve our services.

Our board is charged with overseeing and directing the course of the Dorset Blind Association and in doing so, we continue to adapt to meet the needs of the people we serve in a changing and challenging financial and political environment where service cuts elsewhere have increased demand. We seek to serve as diverse a population of people with sight loss as possible and that includes not only older people, who make up the majority of our service users, but people of working age who have different and more varied needs. We applaud our CEO and staff for always looking for ways to make our services more relevant and inclusive to the people we serve.

We are proud to have a diverse Board of Trustees that includes people from different fields as well as Trustees with sight loss. Our Visually Impaired Trustees contribute not only based on their direct experience of sight loss but also their talents and experiences from their professional lives. Additionally, one of our Trustees has hearing loss and can bring understanding of that challenge to us, which is important as many older people experience both sight and hearing loss. Some of our Trustees have served the Charity as volunteers or staff member, giving us a better understanding of the realities faced on the ground by our staff and volunteers. All of these people together make for a very potent and effective mix of talents and perspectives that will ensure we can offer the best guidance and direction possible to support the growth and sustainability of Dorset Blind Association for many years to come.

I will leave it to our CEO's and Treasurer's report to give details of our financial and programme achievements for the past year. We continue to benefit from the dedication, talents and stewardship of our CEO, Jonathan Holyhead. Jonathan continues to achieve a great deal of success in securing the grants and other income that make the running of the organisation possible. These are crucial, as we could never survive based on our much-valued membership fees, donations, legacies and fundraising efforts alone. Fundraising especially has been severely limited since the beginning of Covid 19 shut down our ability to hold events but we have started to develop that area again in a sustainable way.

Jonathan continues to lead our wonderful and dedicated team of both service and shop staff and over 350 volunteers that make the actual delivery of our services possible. Each and every one of these individuals goes above and beyond to deliver the very best to the people with sight loss, their families and carers throughout Dorset. I speak for the entire Board in thanking them for their exemplary service.

Maria Grundmann
Chairperson

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Chief Executive Officer's report 2021/22

Welcome to my 17th Annual Report for the Dorset Blind Association. This is the third report I have given during the time when all of our lives are impacted to some extent by coronavirus, although mercifully that impact has been far less severe during this year. Reflecting that Covid is still present, and how much the pandemic has taught us about needing to be prepared as best we can for the unexpected, while this report will, as usual, look back over the past year, I will again be placing a greater than normal emphasis on also looking ahead, and again with an emphasis on the vitally important areas of how we will work to maintain our services and strive to ensure our charity's robustness and stability for the future.

It is always nice to be able to start my report on a positive note, and that is certainly the case for 2021/22. Last year was another successful year for Dorset Blind Association, both delivering strongly on its core purpose and mission and with an strong, positive financial performance too. Demand for all of our services has continued to grow. Much of that increased demand has been driven by more people that ever turning to DBA where services once provided by other charities, or by local health service or government, are reduced or even fully withdrawn. We find ourselves increasingly picking up the pieces others leave behind and as a local charity, with real, constant and unbreakable links to our community and people, we are determined to always be there to help people whom others may have abandoned. Our service delivery methods have now settled into a mix of the old and the new, a mix of some of the ways we worked pre-pandemic and some ways which we introduced during the pandemic and this blended, hybrid model ensures that our staff and volunteers still support significant numbers of blind and partially sighted people in all areas of Dorset and with that support still achieving good, positive outcomes.

Our charity shops performed extremely well during the year and provided over £400,000 of our income. We successfully opened our fifth shop at Broadstone and by the end of the year we were close to opening a sixth shop at Weymouth. This shop will open in June 2022 and will be our largest yet, with the largest equipment provision in our shops so far too. Opening in Weymouth will deliver on a promise I made to our members in that area, to introduce a permanent physical presence for Dorset Blind Association in that town and I know how eagerly they have been waiting for this to happen. The shops continue to help us to broaden our reach into the community even further and increase the awareness of our work and how we help people.

The shops helped us achieve a record year for overall income, with that also significantly helped again by good legacy receipts and extremely kind and invaluable support from a range of other funders. After expenditure and all other adjustments we ended the year with a surplus roughly equivalent to 5% of our turnover. This helps meet the development costs of the Weymouth shop and equipment centre, so is positively invested for the future.

In any report I give about our charity I think it is always worth reminding ourselves early on why the Dorset Blind Association exists and the significant extent of sight loss in the county. As recorded earlier in this Report, there are more than 4,400 people living in Dorset today who are registered as blind or partially sighted and, in total, an estimated 33,900 people living in the county with sight loss which affects the quality of their life on a day to day basis. Those people need access to support which helps them to come to terms with their loss of sight, to then face and overcome the challenges which serious sight loss presents and to continue to live active, independent lives in their local community.

It is the purpose of the Dorset Blind Association to provide that support and help enable those people to still have a good quality of life and to maintain a good sense of well-being.

To achieve this purpose Dorset Blind Association provides a range of services which help people to come to terms with the emotional challenges associated with sight loss and to then deal with the practical issues which sight loss cause. As well as trying to help the person suffering sight loss themselves, we also hope that our services can positively help their friends, family and carers too. We treat each person we help as an individual, working with them in partnership to address their unique needs and we always try to put people with sight loss at the centre of all that we do.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

As well as being practical in its nature, we pride ourselves that the support we give is also always flexible and, where appropriate, we are willing to be innovative. We aren't afraid to try something new if we think it will help to make a positive difference. Without ever compromising people's safety, there are times when the best result is achieved by taking controlled, calculated risks and trying a different approach.

Finally, we recognise that services we provide are not always the best or most appropriate for some of the visually impaired people we help and so we regularly refer people on to other sources of help, either as part of a package with our services or sometimes as the unique solution for their needs. Through this approach we have developed and maintain excellent referral relationships with many other local and national charities and with local health and social care agencies.

We consider ourselves to be a caring organisation, nurturing and encouraging people to do things for themselves, to develop their independence. Indeed, it is a core part of our ethos that kindness to our members and all those who turn to us for help should be an absolute bedrock of all we do. Being kind to people shows we care, and they matter.

We also consider ourselves to be progressive and a charity where everyone is made to feel welcome and valued and where volunteers and staff feel the satisfaction of knowing that they are really making a positive difference to the lives of others.

For many people it continues to be essential that our help and support is not time limited in any way. Regular evaluation of our services and feedback from our members tells us that people want a holistic service, as individually person-centred as possible, which is continuous and responsive to their changing needs over time. So we will provide help for as long as it is needed, to recognise that people's needs change and alter over time, as their level of sight may continue to worsen and also other physical health challenges impact more greatly as people age.

Our core services have been developed over a number of years now and continue to adapt and evolve how they work to help visually impaired people across Dorset. Our services achieve a broad range of positive outcomes for the service user. For some the impact can be tiny, for others huge but in every case we work through our staff and volunteers to try and achieve the best outcome we can for that person. Alongside kindness, we also try to work to an approach where for everyone, whatever their needs, we can say that in our efforts to help them, whatever was possible has been done.

Our various services continue to work towards helping people to remain living independently at home and actively in their local community, including access to social opportunities and through these the ability to build and benefit from a good peer support network.

We recognise the importance of trying to be guided by our members in how the charity operates and to reflect their views in both maintaining existing services and in any new services we are able to provide. Our Board of Directors and Trustees includes visually impaired people and we use regular consultation with our members and volunteers, both formal and informal, to help inform decisions about ongoing and future service provision, as well as our Impact Report.

Our ability to deliver our services and all the extremely positive outcomes these achieve is always dependent on maintaining our key resources, the two most important of which are our people and our income.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

We continue to be blessed by a wonderful team of volunteers who give so generously of their time to help provide our services and we are so grateful for all they do. Our volunteer numbers grew during the year and I like to think that our continuing ability to recruit volunteers, and retain many for long periods, reflects a combination of being a local charity, providing a wide range of different volunteering opportunities, the effectiveness of our staff in motivating people to join us and the satisfaction our volunteers gain from what they do. Our volunteers are extremely kind and generous people, giving freely of their time, energy and skills to help others and it remains a source of great pride to us all that we hold The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. On behalf of each and every visually impaired person we help, I take this opportunity to publicly thank our volunteers as a whole group and also record how much all of the charity's staff team enjoy working with you and value your dedication and friendship.

I would also like to thank our Board of Directors and Trustees for all they do, individually and as a group, to support Dorset Blind Association. Their support for me personally is always hugely appreciated and I value the trust they place in me. They are critical friends, quite rightly wanting to question and interrogate decisions I take in my day-to-day management of the charity and to be consulted and fully involved in strategic planning and decision making. Their commitment to the charity should be commended, as also should the continuing and extremely kind support we receive from our President, James Weld and our Patrons, Julian and Emma Fellowes and Stephen Frears. Individually and collectively they provide a range of valuable and vital support for Dorset Blind Association, often in ways which go unseen by the majority. They are all genuinely concerned to see the charity prosper and thrive and are very generous and effective supporters. We are very grateful for their continuing support and I take this opportunity to publicly thank them for that.

Last but certainly not least, when talking of our people assets I must also report another year where our staff have, yet again, individually and collectively delivered far and beyond the call of duty. For anyone reading my reports for previous years, I sound a little like a record stuck in the groove when I mention my staff colleagues, but it really is the case that they are a wonderful asset for our charity and make so much of what we do possible. They always respond positively to the challenges we face and I am always enormously grateful for the hard work they all put in and for the support they all give me in my role. Again, on behalf of each and every visually impaired person we help, I take this opportunity to publicly thank them.

Financial performance during 2021/22 was, as I have already mentioned, again strong and we again achieved a record income total. Our expenditure was higher than in the previous year, reflecting services and activities increasing back towards pre-covid levels and the additional costs of our Broadstone shop. After all adjustments we ended the year with a surplus of nearly £35,700 and, as I have already reported, this will be used in our Weymouth development.

A key aspect of our approach to funding Dorset Blind Association has always been to try and generate income from a broad platform of sources and never becoming too dependent or over reliant on any one single source, as we consider this best helps to provide stability. Our charity shop project certainly helps with this and the growing income from those shops now sits as a significant contributor to our overall financing, alongside the other important areas of members fees and donations, legacy income and grants and funding from the National Lottery and many grant making Trusts and Foundations.

We are always grateful for all the income and other resources which come into the charity. We are especially grateful to the National Lottery for continuing to support our work currently with a grant towards our community support work across Dorset for people of working age. We are similarly grateful to the many grant making Trusts and Foundations which have given to us. None of this support is ever taken for granted, we always thank all who give to us and we continue to work hard to justify the support.

Last year was also another good year for legacy receipts and I hope that the amounts we have received from this source for the past few years now marks a pattern which will be ongoing. It is, of course, always difficult to reflect that receipts of this nature must mean that someone has sadly died, but the fact that increasing numbers of people are choosing to support Dorset Blind Association in this final way in their Will is, I hope, a positive reflection on the quality and positive impact of our services and support. If we continue to receive legacy income at broadly the levels of the past two years, current service provision would almost certainly be guaranteed and there would be scope to grow these further.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Our immediate future is exciting, with the new development in Weymouth extending both our shop numbers and our service offering and as finances permit we will look to continue this growth further. I believe our goal should be to add further to our service delivery capacity, but always within our means and in a way that is sustainable. Our finances have improved and strengthened in the past few years, I believe this is an area we can improve further and that will continue to be one of my key personal goals for Dorset Blind Association for the immediately foreseeable future.

In conclusion I think we can all look back on year 2021/2022 as another year which was positive and where we certainly delivered very effectively on our core purpose. As always for Dorset Blind Association this was achieved through a real team effort. We continued to deliver vitally important and much needed support for our service users throughout Dorset and achieved this alongside another strong financial performance and we ended the year looking very positively forward to further growth and development through which we can support our community even more.

Jonathan Holyhead
Chief Executive Officer.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Treasurer's Report 2021/22

I am pleased to report that the Dorset Blind Association has achieved another record year for income, with total income of £728,607 compared to last year's total of £703,335. After all expenditure and other financial adjustments the year finished with a surplus of £35,678 and while this is much lower than the previous year, the surplus that year was extraordinarily large and reflected much greater legacy receipts. It was also at a level which we could not reasonably expect to remain as a regular, yearly achievement.

Any year which ends with a surplus should be acknowledged as good, in financial terms at least, so our financial year 2021/22 should be seen as that.

While legacy receipts were lower this year, that reduction was more than compensated for by increased revenue from our charity shops and maintaining good levels of income from other sources, such as the National Lottery and various grant making Trusts. We are always very grateful for support from these sources, along with our members fees and donations and fundraising in the community. Together with our shops, all these sources of income help to ensure that we have a broad and diverse base to our funding, which we consider is important for the long term sustainability of our services.

Our income this year also reflected a one-off insurance claim, for business interruption loss at our charity shops during the first Covid lockdown period.

Our surplus this year was also lower because our expenditure increased. There was a significant increase in our spending on direct charitable activities, which is a positive sign for the level of service we provide our members and also reflects that service levels returned to their pre-pandemic levels. Our expenditure also increased at our charity shops, reflecting that a fifth shop was opened at Broadstone and preparations were started in this financial year towards delivering on our plans to open a shop in Weymouth.

Looking ahead, I am confident that if we continue to deliver our plans to sustainably expand our shops and maintain and grow our other sources of income then our financial position will remain positive.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and the volunteers that support us as without them we wouldn't be where we are today and alongside that I would also like to say thank you to my fellow Trustees who give their expertise in helping the DBA to move forward and last but not least I would like to thank our CEO. Without his enthusiasm we certainly wouldn't be in the comparatively strong position we are now.

Heidi Rockett
Hon Treasurer

Achievements and performance

Financial review

The results are summarised on page 13. Total income increased from £611,055 in the previous year to £703,335. This is mainly due to the increased legacy receipts and an increase in income generated from the charity shops.

Expenditure has decreased from £622,129 in the previous year to £530,619. This is almost entirely due to the impact of the COVID pandemic, which caused some services to temporarily stop and others to be delivered in new ways at lower cost than before.

The Trustees are aware that all expenditure must be monitored regularly and they have budgeted for it to increase back in year 2021/2022 as it becomes possible for further charitable services to be delivered again.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Reserves policy

In determining the Association's Reserve Policy, the Trustees have taken into account inter alia:-

the unpredictable nature of income from donations and gifts;

that it would be very undesirable to have to cut off services on which the visually or hearing impaired rely.

The Trustees have agreed the Association's Reserve Policy as:-

a minimum of twelve months unrestricted operating expenditure;

commitments such as redundancy or rental charges which would need to be met if the Association ceased to exist.

The policy is reviewed and, if necessary, revised at least annually when the financial statements are approved.

The purpose of the designation for designated funds of the charity is detailed in note 23.

The charity free reserves as at 31 March 2022 were £435,282. This is in excess of the £350,000 operating expenditure required per the policy.

The general unrestricted fund has increased from £400,657 to £435,282 as at 31 March 2022. The trustees will continue to monitor the level of reserves.

Investment policy

The trustees acknowledge the role played by investment income as an element of the Association's overall income needs. They have appointed a firm of stockbrokers, Charles Stanley, to manage a portfolio of investments on their behalf. Decisions regarding the purchase or sale of any investment are made only after taking into consideration professional advice obtained from this firm. Investments held comprise a balanced portfolio with a low to medium level of risk. The current portfolio is 60% medium risk and 40% low risk.

As income from investments is not currently needed for meeting running costs the Trustees have instructed Charles Stanley to retain dividends and reinvest these, to help further boost the value of the investment portfolio held over time.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Risk management

The Trustees have always reviewed the nature of major risks to which the Charity may be exposed from time to time and as a consequence they have designed and established systems aimed at managing those risks. A review was carried out in response to the coronavirus pandemic, as the Trustees quickly recognised the serious nature of the risk this posed to the Charity. This looked especially at risks arising from the pandemic to service delivery, income generation, management of investments and the risks associated with the Leases held by the Charity on its offices and shop premises. That review resulted in several immediate actions, designed to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 as the Trustees, (with professional advice where appropriate) considered was best achieved.

Recognising that the situation with COVID-19 is constantly evolving and changing, risk review is now undertaken on a more frequent basis, almost continuously by the Charity Chief Executive Officer, with further mitigating actions taken on an ongoing basis as felt necessary and the CEO reporting on this to each Trustees meeting.

Plans for the future

The Trustees recognise the need to develop a broad range of sustainable income streams to support the future work of the Association and they are developing plans to work towards this aim.

They are also giving thought to the strategic direction which the work of the Charity should take and the potential value of partnerships and other co-operative working arrangements with other charities to help achieve this.

The charity has now opened 5 charity shops and is considering adding further in the future especially in the Weymouth area, to try and grow the physical presence of the charity in that part of Dorset and potentially provide a base to support an increase in the delivery of community support services for Weymouth and West Dorset.

Structure, governance and management

The Association is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee. Directors are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and those Directors are the Trustees of the Charity.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

Mrs M L Grundmann
Mrs H Rockett
Mrs P L Jones
Mr M Dowley
Ms T L Bastard
Mr J Perry
Mrs Jessica Webster

They are recruited and trained by a variety of means, including a handbook supplemented by in-house training. Management of the affairs of the Association is vested in the Board of Directors who may appoint such sub-committee and staff as may seem fit. The Management Committee in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer have delegated authority for the day to day management of the Association and report back to the Board of Directors on a regular basis.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute such sum (not exceeding £10) as may be demanded in the event of its being wound up while he/she is a member, towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the charity and towards the costs, charges and expenses of winding up.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022*

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mrs M L Grundmann

Chairman

Dated: 26 September 2022

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Dorset Blind Association (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity 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 the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act;
or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 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 financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their 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 financial statements to be reached.

Roger Morris ACA
Morris Lane

31/33 Commercial Road
Poole
Dorset
BH14 0HU

Dated: 29 September 2022

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>						
Donations and legacies	2	239,146	-	31,630	270,776	420,275
Charitable activities	3	153	-	-	153	1,274
Other trading activities	4	427,198	-	-	427,198	278,165
Investments	5	4,574	1	1	4,576	3,621
Other income	6	25,904	-	-	25,904	-
Total income		696,975	1	31,631	728,607	703,335
<u>Expenditure on:</u>						
Raising funds	7	325,895	-	-	325,895	241,589
Charitable activities	8	333,508	-	31,630	365,138	289,030
Total resources expended		659,403	-	31,630	691,033	530,619
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	(1,896)	-	-	(1,896)	13,413
Net incoming resources before transfers		35,676	1	1	35,678	186,129
Gross transfers between funds		1,000	(1,000)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		36,676	(999)	1	35,678	186,129
Fund balances at 1 April 2021		400,656	86,804	4,265	491,725	305,597
Fund balances at 31 March 2022		437,332	85,805	4,266	527,403	491,726

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Property, plant and equipment	14		75,681		60,806
Investments	15		236,052		118,679
			<u>311,733</u>		<u>179,485</u>
Current assets					
Inventories	17	6,387		5,378	
Trade and other receivables	18	82,151		91,614	
Cash at bank and in hand		153,596		236,798	
		<u>242,134</u>		<u>333,790</u>	
Current liabilities	19	(26,464)		(21,549)	
Net current assets			215,670		312,241
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>527,403</u>		<u>491,726</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	22		4,266		4,265
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	23	87,805		86,804	
General unrestricted funds		435,332		400,657	
		<u>523,137</u>		<u>487,461</u>	
			<u>527,403</u>		<u>491,726</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The director acknowledges his responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 26 September 2022

Mrs M L Grundmann

Trustee

Company Registration No. 07435564

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	26		84,413		167,096
Investing activities					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(52,921)		(7,463)	
Purchase of investments		(159,086)		(87,170)	
Proceeds on disposal of investments		39,816		75,476	
Interest received		4,576		3,621	
Net cash used in investing activities			(167,615)		(15,536)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(83,202)		151,560
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			236,798		85,238
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			153,596		236,798

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Dorset Blind Association is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 17 Bournemouth Road, Lower Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, BH14 0EF.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

The trustees have adopted the going concern basis in preparing these accounts, after assessing the principal risks and having considered the impact of a severe downside scenario for COVID-19. The trustees considered the impact of the current COVID-19 environment on the charity for the next 12 months and in the longer term. Whilst the situation evolves daily, making scenario forecasting difficult, the trustees have considered a number of impacts on their various income streams, surplus/deficits and cash flow.

Whilst the biggest risk faced would be a significant reduction in funding resulting from COVID-19, along with potential physical restrictions due to government imposed measures, due to the nature of the charity there is expected to be a continued regenerating income stream going forward and any consequential effect would therefore likely manifest itself primarily in a cash flow timing issue as opposed to a significantly detrimental absolute impact.

As discussed in the Trustees' report, the charity has a good level of cash, no bank debt, recovering levels of investments, seen continued support for their shops and has taken advantage of Government financial support available to enable it to meet its obligations as they fall due for a period of at least 12 months from the date of signing of these financial statements. The trustees believe their willingness to adapt and overcome difficulties as they present themselves and their regular review of the charity's financial position and performance that the charity is well placed to manage its financing and business risks satisfactorily and they therefore consider it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing these accounts.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.4 Incoming resources

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

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

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

Assets for distribution are recognised only when distributed. Assets given for use by the charity are recognised when receivable. Stocks of undistributed donated goods are not valued for balance sheet purposes.

Shop income and income derived from events is recognised as earned (that is, as the related goods or services are provided).

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Costs of generating funds are the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be attributed directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Included within support costs are governance costs including the preparation of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustees' meetings and the cost of any legal advice on governance or constitutional matters.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

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

Leasehold improvements	10 years straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	5 years straight line
Computer equipment	100%
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Non-current investments

Fixed asset investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date.

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent costs, and are charged or credited to the statement of financial activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are charged or credited to the statement of financial position based on the market value at the year end.

1.8 Impairment of non-current assets

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

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in income/(expenditure) for the year, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately, unless the relevant asset is carried in at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.9 Inventories

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

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.11 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

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

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

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

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.12 Employee benefits

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

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

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.13 Retirement benefits

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

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds general £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Donations and gifts	29,031	-	29,031	16,261
Legacies receivable	110,904	-	110,904	164,432
Grants receivable	99,211	31,630	130,841	239,582
	<u>239,146</u>	<u>31,630</u>	<u>270,776</u>	<u>420,275</u>
For the year ended 31 March 2021	<u><u>366,202</u></u>	<u><u>54,073</u></u>		<u><u>420,275</u></u>

3 Charitable activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Transcription income	153	1,228
Transcription training income	-	46
	<u>153</u>	<u>1,274</u>

4 Other trading activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Fundraising events	23,322	36,551
Shop income	403,876	241,614
	<u>427,198</u>	<u>278,165</u>

Included in the shop income are amounts relating to the the sale of new and used equipment specifically designed to aid blind and partially sighted people as per the mission statement of the charity.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

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

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income from listed investments	3,731	-	-	3,731	3,599
Interest receivable	843	1	1	845	22
	<u>4,574</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4,576</u>	<u>3,621</u>

6 Other income

	2022 £	2021 £
Other income	<u>25,904</u>	<u>-</u>

7 Raising funds

	2022 £	2021 £
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Other fundraising costs	735	3,285
Staff costs	-	14,862
Support costs	497	1,431
	<u>1,232</u>	<u>19,578</u>
<u>Trading costs</u>		
Operating charity shops	156,457	93,585
Staff costs	161,884	123,638
Support costs	3,923	3,463
	<u>322,264</u>	<u>220,686</u>
<u>Investment management</u>	<u>2,399</u>	<u>866</u>
	<u>325,895</u>	<u>241,589</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

8 Charitable activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff costs	202,335	171,112
Shop and office costs	4,414	-
Staff travelling, expenses and training	12,890	6,059
Rent	21,563	14,142
Rates	245	-
Heat and light	3,457	1,341
Insurance	5,887	3,869
Telephone	1,899	2,100
Social and outings	2,412	773
Home visiting scheme	510	279
Dorset link	939	1,891
Bad debts written off	140	-
Sight equipment vehicle expenses	4,788	4,257
	<u>261,479</u>	<u>205,823</u>
Share of support costs (see note 9)	88,975	71,202
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	14,684	12,005
	<u>365,138</u>	<u>289,030</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	333,508	226,478
Restricted funds	31,630	62,552
	<u>365,138</u>	<u>289,030</u>
For the year ended 31 March 2021		
Unrestricted funds - general	226,478	
Restricted funds	62,552	
	<u>289,030</u>	

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2022	2021	Basis of allocation
	£	£	£	£	
Staff costs	29,184	-	29,184	28,250	Staff time
Depreciation	38,046	-	38,046	27,148	Support
Rent	4,626	-	4,626	4,714	Usage
Rates	82	-	82	-	Usage
Heat and light	484	-	484	447	Usage
Insurance	1,963	-	1,963	1,290	Usage
Telephone	633	-	633	700	Usage
Office costs	11,194	-	11,194	8,063	Usage
Bank charges	3,260	-	3,260	2,021	Usage
Legal and professional	-	15,527	15,527	12,326	Governance
Independent examiners fees	-	3,080	3,080	3,142	Governance
	<u>89,472</u>	<u>18,607</u>	<u>108,079</u>	<u>88,101</u>	
Analysed between					
Fundraising	497	-	497	1,431	
Trading	-	3,923	3,923	3,463	
Charitable activities	88,975	14,684	103,659	83,207	
	<u>89,472</u>	<u>18,607</u>	<u>108,079</u>	<u>88,101</u>	

10 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

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

11 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022	2021
	Number	Number
Administration	4	4
Service delivery	5	4
Sales and marketing	-	1
Shop staff	10	8
	<u>19</u>	<u>17</u>

Employment costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	365,231	277,690
Social security costs	20,982	19,475
Other pension costs	7,190	3,880
	<u>393,403</u>	<u>337,862</u>

Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £50,597 (2021: £51,884).

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

12 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	2022	2021
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	(1,896)	13,828
Gain/(loss) on sale of investments	-	(415)
	<u>(1,896)</u>	<u>13,413</u>

13 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is, therefore, exempt from taxation.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

14 Property, plant and equipment

	Leasehold improvements	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Computer equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2021	38,366	107,491	41,704	24,875	212,436
Additions	-	28,754	1,677	22,490	52,921
At 31 March 2022	38,366	136,245	43,381	47,365	265,357
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 April 2021	38,366	60,677	41,704	10,883	151,630
Depreciation charged in the year	-	27,249	1,677	9,120	38,046
At 31 March 2022	38,366	87,926	43,381	20,003	189,676
Carrying amount					
At 31 March 2022	-	48,319	-	27,362	75,681
At 31 March 2021	-	46,814	-	13,992	60,806

15 Fixed asset investments

	2022 £	2021 £
Listed investments	236,052	118,679
Listed investments included above:	2022 £	2021 £
Listed investments carrying amount	236,052	118,679

Fixed asset investments revalued

The historical cost of the investments is £232,330 (2021: £111,498).

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

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

15	Fixed asset investments	(Continued)	
	Movements in non-current investments		Shares £
	Cost or valuation		
	At 31 March 2022		118,679
	Additions		159,086
	Valuation changes		(1,896)
	Disposals		(39,817)
	At 31 March 2022		<u>236,052</u>
	Carrying amount		
	At 31 March 2022		<u>236,052</u>
	At 31 March 2021		<u>118,679</u>
16	Financial instruments	2022	2021
		£	£
	Carrying amount of financial assets		
	Instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss	236,052	118,679
		<u>236,052</u>	<u>118,679</u>
17	Inventories	2022	2021
		£	£
	Finished goods and goods for resale	6,387	5,378
		<u>6,387</u>	<u>5,378</u>
18	Trade and other receivables	2022	2021
		£	£
	Amounts falling due within one year:		
	Trade receivables	4,198	1,188
	Other receivables	49,225	72,003
	Prepayments and accrued income	28,728	18,423
		<u>82,151</u>	<u>91,614</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

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

19 Current liabilities

	2022 £	2021 £
Other taxation and social security	5,890	4,980
Trade payables	8,258	3,616
Other payables	1,983	1,294
Accruals and deferred income	10,333	11,659
	<u>26,464</u>	<u>21,549</u>

20 Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2022 the company annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Within one year	21,616	36,000
Between two and five years	74,000	77,116
In over five years	4,156	22,656
	<u>99,772</u>	<u>135,772</u>

The operating leases represent premises rent to third parties.

21 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £5,935 (2020: £6,530). These are unrestricted funds and are analysed under charitable activities.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

22 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2021	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	£
Childrens Fund	4,265	1	-	4,266
National Lottery Fund	-	31,630	(31,630)	-
	<u>4,265</u>	<u>31,631</u>	<u>(31,630)</u>	<u>4,266</u>

Childrens Fund - this fund was transferred to the charity on the closure of another charity and will be spent on activities, equipment and other service support for visually impaired children.

National Lottery Fund - this fund represents a Reaching Communities grant towards the community support service.

23 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

VIP Diary Group	11,804	1	1,000	12,805
Weymouth Hub Fund	75,000	-	-	75,000
	<u>86,804</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>87,805</u>

Property Fund - this fund represents funds held for the purchase of a potential property in the future.

VIP Diary Group - this fund represents monies held on behalf of our North Dorset Club from the sale of their specialist diaries for visually impaired people to be spent as directed by the Club.

Weymouth Hub Fund - this fund is to enable the development of a hub in the Weymouth area, to include a charity shop and potentially a community cafe. The purpose is to grow our physical presence in this part of Dorset and provide a base from which we can increase the delivery of our community support services.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

24 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Designated funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2022 are represented by:					
Property, plant and equipment	75,681	-	-	75,681	60,806
Investments	161,052	75,000	-	236,052	118,679
Current assets/(liabilities)	200,599	10,805	4,266	215,670	312,241
	<u>437,332</u>	<u>85,805</u>	<u>4,266</u>	<u>527,403</u>	<u>491,726</u>

25 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel, including directors, is as follows.

	2022 £	2021 £
Aggregate compensation	<u>50,597</u>	<u>51,884</u>

Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity there were the following transactions with related parties:

	Purchase of goods	
	2022 £	2021 £
Other related parties	<u>5,010</u>	<u>500</u>
	<u>5,010</u>	<u>500</u>

During the year a number of trustees donated goods for the charity to sell in its charity shops.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

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

26 Cash generated from operations	2022 £	2021 £
Surplus for the year	35,678	186,129
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(4,576)	(3,621)
(Gain)/loss on disposal of investments	-	415
Fair value gains and losses on investments	1,896	(13,828)
Depreciation and impairment of property, plant and equipment	38,046	27,148
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in inventories	(1,009)	(210)
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	9,463	(27,873)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	4,915	(1,064)
Cash generated from operations	<u>84,413</u>	<u>167,096</u>

27 Analysis of changes in net funds	At 1 April 2021 £	Cash flows At 31 March 2022 £	
Cash at bank and in hand	236,798	(83,202)	153,596
	<u>236,798</u>	<u>(83,202)</u>	<u>153,596</u>
	<u>236,798</u>	<u>(83,202)</u>	<u>153,596</u>

The charity had no debt during the year.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1140321

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1140321

Company Registration No. 07435564 (England and Wales)

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

President	Mr J Weld
Patrons	The Lord Fellowes of West Stafford, DL Lady Emma Kitchener-Fellowes Mr S Frears
Directors and Trustees	Mrs M L Grundmann Mrs H Rockett Mrs P L Jones Mr M Dowley Mrs T Bastard Mr J Perry Mrs Jessica Webster (Appointed 15 October 2020)
Secretary	Mr J N Holyhead
Chief executive	Mr J N Holyhead
Charity number	1140321
Company number	07435564
Registered office	17 Bournemouth Road Lower Parkstone Poole Dorset BH14 0EF
Independent examiner	Morris Lane 31/33 Commercial Road Poole Dorset BH14 0HU
Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC 204 Lower Blandford Road Broadstone Dorset BH18 8DS
Solicitors	Druitts Solicitors, Borough Chambers, Fir Vale Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH1 2JE

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Investment advisors Charles Stanley & Co Ltd
Vadatech House
Hounslow Business Park
Bulls Copse Road
Southampton
Hampshire
SO40 9LR

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

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DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Dorset Blind Association was established as an unincorporated charity in 1918 to promote the relief in need of visually impaired in the county of Dorset and to advance public education about blindness and the needs of the visually impaired. It is a registered charity (Registration number 1140321) and works closely with officers and staff of Poole Borough Council, Bournemouth Borough Council, Dorset County Council, Health Authorities across Dorset, the Royal Bournemouth Hospital Eye Unit and the Royal Eye Infirmary at the Dorset County Hospital of Dorchester.

On 10 November 2010 a new incorporated charity was set up, also called Dorset Blind Association, and on 1 April 2011 the funds, assets, liabilities and operations of the unincorporated charity were transferred to it.

Mission Statement

Helping to make life better for visually impaired people.

What services does it provide?

The main services of the Association are:

1. Advice, support and information to blind and partially sighted people and people with hearing loss in Dorset.
2. A community support service, to help people with sight loss maintain independent, healthy and socially active lives. This includes volunteers providing regular home visits.
3. A Resource Centre in Lower Parkstone, Poole providing advice on, and the facility to purchase, specialist equipment and aids to daily living designed to help people who are visually impaired or hearing impaired.
4. A mobile resource centre via the Sight Equipment Vehicles.
5. Support service at the Royal Eye Infirmary at Dorset County Hospital
6. A quarterly newsletter, 'The Dorset Link', produced in a range of accessible formats.
7. Social, Handicraft and Activity Clubs.
8. The provision of grants from voluntary funds, when funding permits.
9. Agents for the British Wireless for the Blind Fund in Dorset.
10. A Braille and audio transcription service to members and external organisations.
11. Awareness training to organisations or individuals on the needs of the visually impaired.

How is it funded?

By voluntary donations, trust funds, bequests and legacies.

By income from investments.

By National Lottery and other grants.

By members' subscriptions.

By income generated at charity shops.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)"

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects are to advance public education about blindness and deafness and the needs of the visually and/or hearing impaired and to promote the relief in need of people who have a sight and/or hearing loss, in the county of Dorset and the surrounding areas. The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are detailed in the reports presented by the Chairman, Chief Executive and Treasurer.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake and for the public benefit.

The charity achieves its mission statement and purposes through the provision of a variety of activities, services, help and support for visually impaired people of Dorset, all of which aim to help those people to maintain healthy, independent and socially inclusive lives notwithstanding the impact of the loss of sight.

Sight Loss in Dorset

It is important to understand the scale of sight loss in Dorset and the challenge this presents, as this creates the need for the Dorset Blind Association to exist and to remain vibrant and sustainable.

Being blind or partially sighted has a significant impact on people's ability to live independently, to access shops and community facilities, to use public transport and to play an active part in society. Sight loss does not come in isolation and is often accompanied by other health issues. It can often also have a real impact on people's emotional wellbeing.

All of these challenges have been magnified by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The total population of Dorset is now over 773,000. It is an ageing population with a higher than national average number of people of retirement age and this is set to rise.

Latest available statistics tell us that there are over 4,400 people registered as blind or partially sighted in Dorset.

Of these people over 70% are aged 75 years or older and almost 20% are of working age.

Including the people who are registered as blind or partially sighted, there are an estimated 33,900 people living in Dorset with sight loss, which is equivalent to nearly 4.4% of the county's population.

This number is predicted to continue to rise for the foreseeable future.

The expected increase in the number of people affected by and living with sight loss is strongly linked to the demographics of Dorset, with increased life expectancy certain to result in greater numbers of people affected by conditions such as age-related macular degeneration.

Demand for services to support people suffering from sight loss is already significant and is certain to increase noticeably in the medium and longer term.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Chairperson's report 2020/21

In this, our second annual report during the Covid 19 pandemic, I am proud to say we have continued to achieve far beyond our expectations under very difficult circumstances. We learned much over the last year about our capacity to adapt and effect change to not only survive but, in many ways, flourish in this difficult environment. The leadership shown by our CEO has been exemplary as he guided us through the many programmes designed to assist charities to survive and also to protect the jobs of our dedicated staff. This included not only service delivery staff but the staff at our charity shops which enabled the shops to survive the times of closure so they could reopen and continue to generate funds to support our services to people with sight loss throughout all of Dorset.

We are very grateful to the organisations and businesses, as well as individuals, who continued to support us through this past year and into the future. Without their support, and that of our members, volunteers and patrons, we would not have been able to continue to deliver our services in the many new and innovative ways we have developed.

Our board is charged with overseeing and directing the course of the Dorset Blind Association and in doing so, we continue to adapt to meet the needs of the people we serve in a changing and challenging financial and political environment where service cuts elsewhere have increased the demands for our services. We seek to serve as diverse a population of people with sight loss as possible and that includes not only older people, who make up the majority of our service users, but people of working age who have different and more varied needs. We applaud our CEO and staff for always looking for ways to make our services more relevant and inclusive to the people we serve.

We are proud to have a diverse Board of Trustees that includes people from different fields as well as Trustees with sight loss. Our Visually Impaired Trustees contribute not only based on their direct experience of sight loss but also their talents and experiences from their professional lives. Additionally, one of our Trustees has hearing loss and can bring understanding of that challenge to us, which is important as many older people experience both sight and hearing loss. Some of our Trustees have served the Charity as volunteers or staff member, giving us a better understanding of the realities faced on the ground by our staff and volunteers. All of these people together make for a very potent and effective mix of talents and perspectives that will ensure we can offer the best guidance and direction possible to support the growth and sustainability of Dorset Blind Association for many years to come.

I will leave it to our CEO's and Treasurer's report to give details of our financial and programme achievements for the past year. We continue to benefit from the dedication, talents and stewardship of our CEO, Jonathan Holyhead. Jonathan continues to achieve a great deal of success in securing the grants and other income that make the running of the organisation possible. These are crucial, as we could never survive based on our much-valued membership dues, donations, legacies and fundraising efforts alone. Fundraising especially has been severely limited since the beginning of Covid 19 shut down our ability to hold events. Our decision to expand our four charity shops to five was a good one and they will continue generating income for us to support our direct services as well as being very important in raising awareness in the community.

In addition to the shop staff, Jonathan leads our wonderful and dedicated team of the twelve staff and 300 volunteers that make the actual delivery of our services possible. Each and every one of these individuals goes above and beyond to deliver the very best to the people with sight loss, their families and carers throughout Dorset. I speak for the entire Board in thanking them for their exemplary service.

Maria Grundmann
Chairperson

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Chief Executive Officer's report 2020/21

Welcome to my 16th Annual Report for the Dorset Blind Association. This is the second report I have given during the time when all of our lives are impacted by coronavirus and while this report will, as usual, look back over the past year, I will again be placing a greater than normal emphasis on also looking ahead, and again with an emphasis on the vitally important areas of how we will work to maintain our services and strive to ensure our charity's robustness and stability for the future.

Given the considerable challenges posed by the pandemic, I feel very proud to begin my report by saying that last year was another successful year for Dorset Blind Association, both delivering strongly on its core purpose and mission and with an especially strong financial performance too. While we were, for perfectly understandable reasons, unable to provide some of our services in traditional ways, demand for all of our services remained high. We adapted our service delivery methods to ensure that our staff and volunteers still supported significant numbers of blind and partially sighted people in all areas of Dorset and with that support still achieving good, positive outcomes.

Our charity shops performed well during the periods they were allowed to be open and trade and by the end of the year we were close to opening a fifth shop at Broadstone. The shops continue to help us to broaden our reach into the community even further and increase the awareness of our work and how we help people.

The shops helped us achieve a record year for income, with that also significantly helped by good legacy receipts and extremely kind and invaluable support from a range of other funders. After expenditure and all other adjustments we ended the year with a substantial surplus.

In any report about our charity I think it is always worth reminding ourselves why the Dorset Blind Association exists and the significant extent of sight loss in the county. As recorded earlier in this Report, there are more than 4,400 people living in Dorset today who are registered as blind or partially sighted and, in total, an estimated 33,900 people living in the county with sight loss which affects the quality of their life on a day to day basis. Those people need access to support which helps them to come to terms with their loss of sight, to then face and overcome the challenges which serious sight loss presents and to continue to live active, independent lives in their local community.

It is the purpose of the Dorset Blind Association to provide that support and help enable those people to still have a good quality of life and to maintain a good sense of well-being.

To achieve this purpose Dorset Blind Association provides a range of services which help people to come to terms with the emotional challenges associated with sight loss and to then deal with the practical issues which sight loss cause. As well as trying to help the person suffering sight loss themselves, we also hope that our services can positively help their friends, family and carers too. We treat each person we help as an individual, working with them in partnership to address their unique needs and we always try to put people with sight loss at the centre of all that we do.

As well as being practical in its nature, we pride ourselves that the support we give is also always flexible and, where appropriate, we are willing to be innovative. We aren't afraid to try something new if we think it will help to make a positive difference.

Without ever compromising people's safety, there are times when the best result is achieved by taking controlled, calculated risks and trying a different approach.

Finally, we recognise that services we provide are not always the best or most appropriate for some of the visually impaired people we help and so we regularly refer people on to other sources of help, either as part of a package with our services or sometimes as the unique solution for their needs. Through this approach we have developed and maintain excellent referral relationships with many other local and national charities and with local health and social care agencies.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

We consider ourselves to be a caring organisation, nurturing and encouraging people to do things for themselves, to develop their independence. We also consider ourselves to be progressive and a charity where everyone is made to feel welcome and valued and where volunteers and staff feel the satisfaction of knowing that they are really making a positive difference to the lives of others.

For many people it continues to be essential that our help and support is not time limited in any way. Regular evaluation of our services and feedback from our members tells us that people want a holistic service, as individually person-centred as possible, which is continuous and responsive to their changing needs over time. So we will provide help for as long as it is needed, to recognise that people's needs change and alter over time, as their level of sight may continue to worsen and also other physical health challenges impact more greatly as people age.

Our core services have been developed over a number of years now and continue to adapt and evolve how they work to help visually impaired people across Dorset. Our services achieve a broad range of positive outcomes for the service user. For some the impact can be tiny, for others huge but in every case we work through our staff and volunteers to try and achieve the best outcome we can for that person.

Our various services continue to work towards helping people to remain living independently at home and actively in their local community, including access to social opportunities and through these the ability to build and benefit from a good peer support network.

We recognise the importance of trying to be guided by our members in how the charity operates and to reflect their views in both maintaining existing services and in any new services we are able to provide. Our Board of Directors and Trustees includes visually impaired people and we use regular consultation with our members and volunteers, both formal and informal, as the basis of our Impact Reports, which we aim to publish every second year.

The next such consultation is currently taking place and the information gathered through it will be used to help produce our next Impact Report, as well as being considered in decisions about future service developments.

Our ability to deliver our services and all the extremely positive outcomes these achieve is always dependent on maintaining our key resources, the two most important of which are our people and our income.

We continue to be blessed by a wonderful team of volunteers who give so generously of their time to help provide our services and we are so grateful for all they do. Seeing how our volunteers have continued to help our members as best they can throughout the pandemic, with flexibility and resourcefulness has been inspiring. Our volunteers are extremely kind and generous people, giving freely of their time, energy and skills to help others and it remains a source of great pride to us all that we hold The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. On behalf of each and every visually impaired person we help, I take this opportunity to publicly thank our volunteers as a whole group and also record how much all of the charity's staff team enjoy working with you and value your dedication and friendship.

I would also like to thank our Board of Directors and Trustees for all they do, individually and as a group, to support Dorset Blind Association. Their support for me personally is always hugely appreciated and has never wavered as we have, as a team working together, faced and met the many challenges posed by the pandemic. Their commitment to the charity should be commended, as also should the continuing and extremely kind support we receive from our President, James Weld and our Patrons, Julian and Emma Fellowes and Stephen Frears. Individually and collectively they provide a range of valuable and vital support for Dorset Blind Association, often in ways which go unseen by the majority. They are all genuinely concerned to see the charity prosper and thrive and are very generous and effective supporters. We are very grateful for their continuing support and I take this opportunity to publicly thank them for that.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Last but certainly not least, when talking of our people assets I must also report another year where our staff have, individually and collectively, delivered far and beyond the call of duty. Similarly to so many of our volunteers, my staff colleagues have responded positively to the challenges brought about by COVID and I am enormously grateful for the hard work they all put in, their flexibility in adjusting to how we have needed to work during this past year and for their enthusiasm, commitment and continuing good humour throughout! Again on behalf of each and every visually impaired person we help, I take this opportunity to publicly thank them.

Financial performance during 2020/21 was, as I have already mentioned, extremely strong. We achieved a record income total, broadly 15% higher than the previous year. Our expenditure was lower than in the previous year, entirely because of the impact of the pandemic, and after all adjustments we ended the year with a surplus of just over £186,000. This helps to leave our finances in a much stronger position than at any other time in the recent past.

A key aspect of our approach to funding Dorset Blind Association has always been to try and generate income from a board platform of sources and never becoming too dependent or over reliant on any one single source. The pandemic understandably stopped a great deal of our traditional community based fundraising and we have now decided that this will play a much smaller part in our overall funding strategy going forward. Notwithstanding that decision, we continue to generate our income from that broad platform we consider best helps to provide stability. Our charity shop project certainly helps with this and the growing income from those shops now sits as a significant contributor to our overall financing, alongside the other important areas of members fees and donations, legacy income and grants and funding from the National Lottery and many grant making Trusts and Foundations.

We are always grateful for all the income and other resources which come into the charity. We are especially grateful to the National Lottery for continuing to support our work during the pandemic and with a new grant towards our community support work across Dorset. Also the many grant making Trusts and Foundations which have given to us from both their regular donation programmes and several emergency funding programmes set up as a response to COVID. None of this support is ever taken for granted, we always thank all who give to us and we continue to work hard to justify the support.

And it would be remiss to not include in our thanks for financial support both local and central government. Through our shops we were able to access a range of financial support schemes and the job retention scheme, (more commonly known as furlough) was essential in enabling us to retain the services of valued staff.

In my report last year I talked about the steps taken to tackle the financial threat to Dorset Blind Association as a result of the pandemic and the impact of COVID on our ability to deliver services. I think my report above speaks for itself that the steps we took to address the challenges have been very successful.

That success was underpinned by taking a focused, calm and measured approach, with quick, but well thought through, decision making backed up by the full support and commitment of Trustees and staff alike. Positive outcomes were achieved through a team effort of which we can all feel proud.

Our community services have all continued. Some of the new ways of working forced on us by the pandemic have been found to be so beneficial that they now remain as part of the way we will work for the foreseeable future. The one service area still most negatively impacted as I write this report is our clubs and activity groups, but as we look forward into the autumn of 2021 and beyond we can see green shoots of recovery in this area and we remain confident that providing a range of social clubs and activity groups remains a key component in our service delivery.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Our finances have not only remained strong and robust but have improved. Strong legacy income played an important part in this and the receipts of that nature this year were trailed in my report last year. The significant surplus this year has enabled us to increase the amount we hold in investments, and to generally increase our reserves, which the Trustees and I feel is a prudent and sensible approach given the continuing uncertainties still being caused by the pandemic.

The strong financial performance not only gives us increased security but also the resources to look at further positive service developments in the future. It is a personal ambition of several years standing now that Dorset Blind Association develops a stronger presence in the Weymouth area and 2021 will hopefully see real steps taken towards that, hopefully with a charity shop in that area supporting a larger physical hub through which more support services can be provided.

In conclusion I think we can all look back on year 2020/2021 with quiet satisfaction. As always for Dorset Blind Association, most definitely through a real team effort, where we stand together and support each other through thick and thin, we continued to deliver vitally important and much needed support for our service users throughout Dorset and achieved this alongside a very strong financial performance which gives both increased security and opportunities for further growth and development.

Jonathan Holyhead
Chief Executive Officer.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Treasurer's Report 2020/21

The Dorset Blind Association has made a surplus this year of £186,129, which is excellent news and a really strong financial performance, especially considering the very challenging year we have all faced.

Our income this year is £703,335, which is a new record total for our charity. This compares to last year's total of £611,055, representing an increase of £92,280 or 15.1%. The increase this year is mainly due to a significant legacy that we received, supported by an increase in grants secured and increased income from our charity shops, but off-set by substantially reduced income from fundraising events, with these being severely curtailed by the impact of the pandemic.

The strong overall financial performance was also helped by our expenditure reducing by £90,448. Reduced expenditure was almost all directly attributable to the impact of COVID. The main areas of cost saving were reduced fundraising costs, reduced operating costs for our charity shops, reduced costs for staff in delivering our community support services, savings from it not being possible to provide our social clubs and activity groups, and the costs of our central office function being less.

This has been a trying time for everyone in all sorts of ways and I would like to say a big thank you to all our staff, who have done extremely well adjusting to different ways of working and still keeping in touch with our members and providing them with such a valuable service. I would also like to say thank you to all our Trustees who have been there to help and give advice to our CEO who has done an excellent job in keeping up to date with applying for all government grants we were allowed to claim and other sources of funding.

I'd like to say a big thank you to our CEO as without him I don't think we would be in the position we are in today.

Heidi Rockett
Hon Treasurer

Achievements and performance

Financial review

The results are summarised on page 13. Total income increased from £611,055 in the previous year to £703,335. This is mainly due to the increased legacy receipts and an increase in income generated from the charity shops.

Expenditure has decreased from £622,129 in the previous year to £530,619. This is almost entirely due to the impact of the COVID pandemic, which caused some services to temporarily stop and others to be delivered in new ways at lower cost than before.

The Trustees are aware that all expenditure must be monitored regularly and they have budgeted for it to increase back in year 2021/2022 as it becomes possible for further charitable services to be delivered again.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Reserves policy

In determining the Association's Reserve Policy, the Trustees have taken into account inter alia:-

- the unpredictable nature of income from donations and gifts;
- that it would be very undesirable to have to cut off services on which the visually or hearing impaired rely.

The Trustees have agreed the Association's Reserve Policy as:-

- a minimum of twelve months unrestricted operating expenditure;
- commitments such as redundancy or rental charges which would need to be met if the Association ceased to exist.

The policy is reviewed and, if necessary, revised at least annually when the financial statements are approved.

The Trustees felt that the continuing uncertainty caused by COVID meant it was prudent, sensible and justifiable to increase the period of time in the policy from nine months to 12 months this year

The purpose of the designation for designated funds of the charity is detailed in note 23.

The charity free reserves as at 31 March 2021 were £400,657. This is in excess of the £350,000 operating expenditure required per the policy.

The general unrestricted fund has increased from £115,057 to £400,657 as at 31 March 2021. The trustees will continue to monitor the level of reserves.

Investment policy

The trustees acknowledge the role played by investment income as an element of the Association's overall income needs. They have appointed a firm of stockbrokers, Charles Stanley, to manage a portfolio of investments on their behalf. Decisions regarding the purchase or sale of any investment are made only after taking into consideration professional advice obtained from this firm. Investments held comprise a balanced portfolio with a low to medium level of risk. The current portfolio is 60% medium risk and 40% low risk.

As income from investments is not currently needed for meeting running costs the Trustees have instructed Charles Stanley to retain dividends and reinvest these, to help further boost the value of the investment portfolio held over time.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Risk management

The Trustees have always reviewed the nature of major risks to which the Charity may be exposed from time to time and as a consequence they have designed and established systems aimed at managing those risks. A review was carried out in response to the coronavirus pandemic, as the Trustees quickly recognised the serious nature of the risk this posed to the Charity. This looked especially at risks arising from the pandemic to service delivery, income generation, management of investments and the risks associated with the Leases held by the Charity on its offices and shop premises. That review resulted in several immediate actions, designed to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 as the Trustees, (with professional advice where appropriate) considered was best achieved.

Recognising that the situation with COVID-19 is constantly evolving and changing, risk review is now undertaken on a more frequent basis, almost continuously by the Charity Chief Executive Officer, with further mitigating actions taken on an ongoing basis as felt necessary and the CEO reporting on this to each Trustees meeting.

Plans for the future

The Trustees recognise the need to develop a broad range of sustainable income streams to support the future work of the Association and they are developing plans to work towards this aim.

They are also giving thought to the strategic direction which the work of the Charity should take and the potential value of partnerships and other co-operative working arrangements with other charities to help achieve this.

The charity has now opened 5 charity shops and is considering adding further in the future especially in the Weymouth area, to try and grow the physical presence of the charity in that part of Dorset and potentially provide a base to support an increase in the delivery of community support services for Weymouth and West Dorset.

Structure, governance and management

The Association is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee. Directors are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and those Directors are the Trustees of the Charity.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

Mrs M L Grundmann

Mr M A Noble

(Retired 1 October 2020)

Mrs H Rockett

Mrs P L Jones

Mr M Dowley

Mrs T Bastard

Mr J Perry

Mrs Jessica Webster

(Appointed 15 October 2020)

They are recruited and trained by a variety of means, including a handbook supplemented by in-house training. Management of the affairs of the Association is vested in the Board of Directors who may appoint such sub-committee and staff as may seem fit. The Management Committee in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer have delegated authority for the day to day management of the Association and report back to the Board of Directors on a regular basis.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute such sum (not exceeding £10) as may be demanded in the event of its being wound up while he/she is a member, towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the charity and towards the costs, charges and expenses of winding up.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021*

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mrs M L Grundmann

Chairman

Dated: 20 September 2021

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Dorset Blind Association (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity 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 the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 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 financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their 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 financial statements to be reached.

Roger Morris ACA
Morris Lane

31/33 Commercial Road
Poole
Dorset
BH14 0HU

Dated: 28 September 2021

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
<u>Income from:</u>						
Donations and legacies	2	366,202	-	54,073	420,275	308,080
Charitable activities	3	1,274	-	-	1,274	2,459
Other trading activities	4	278,165	-	-	278,165	294,904
Investments	5	3,613	6	2	3,621	5,612
Total income		649,254	6	54,075	703,335	611,055
<u>Expenditure on:</u>						
Raising funds	6	241,589	-	-	241,589	287,349
Charitable activities	7	226,478	-	62,552	289,030	333,718
Net losses (gains) on disposal of fixed assets	11	-	-	-	-	1,062
Total resources expended		468,067	-	62,552	530,619	622,129
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	13,413	-	-	13,413	(3,861)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		194,600	6	(8,477)	186,129	(14,935)
Gross transfers between funds		91,000	(91,000)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		285,600	(90,994)	(8,477)	186,129	(14,935)
Fund balances at 1 April 2020		115,057	177,798	12,742	305,597	320,532
Fund balances at 31 March 2021		400,657	86,804	4,265	491,726	305,597

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Property, plant and equipment	14		60,806		80,491
Investments	15		118,679		93,572
			<u>179,485</u>		<u>174,063</u>
Current assets					
Inventories	17	5,378		5,168	
Trade and other receivables	18	91,614		63,741	
Cash at bank and in hand		236,798		85,238	
		<u>333,790</u>		<u>154,147</u>	
Current liabilities	19	(21,549)		(22,613)	
Net current assets			312,241		131,534
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>491,726</u>		<u>305,597</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	22		4,265		12,742
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	23	86,804		177,798	
General unrestricted funds		400,657		115,057	
		<u>487,461</u>		<u>292,855</u>	
			<u>491,726</u>		<u>305,597</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20 September 2021

Mrs M L Grundmann

Trustee

Company Registration No. 07435564

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	27		167,096		3,880
Investing activities					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(7,463)		(67,915)	
Proceeds on disposal of property, plant and equipment		-		1,200	
Purchase of investments		(87,170)		(20,363)	
Proceeds on disposal of investments		75,476		34,833	
Interest received		3,621		5,612	
Net cash used in investing activities			(15,536)		(46,633)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			151,560		(42,753)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			85,238		127,991
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			236,798		85,238

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Dorset Blind Association is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 17 Bournemouth Road, Lower Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, BH14 0EF.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

The trustees have adopted the going concern basis in preparing these accounts, after assessing the principal risks and having considered the impact of a severe downside scenario for COVID-19. The trustees considered the impact of the current COVID-19 environment on the charity for the next 12 months and in the longer term. Whilst the situation evolves daily, making scenario forecasting difficult, the trustees have considered a number of impacts on their various income streams, surplus/deficits and cash flow.

Whilst the biggest risk faced would be a significant reduction in funding resulting from COVID-19, along with potential physical restrictions due to government imposed measures, due to the nature of the charity there is expected to be a continued regenerating income stream going forward and any consequential effect would therefore likely manifest itself primarily in a cash flow timing issue as opposed to a significantly detrimental absolute impact.

As discussed in the Trustees' report, the charity has a good level of cash, no bank debt, recovering levels of investments, seen continued support for their shops and has taken advantage of Government financial support available to enable it to meet its obligations as they fall due for a period of at least 12 months from the date of signing of these financial statements. The trustees believe their willingness to adapt and overcome difficulties as they present themselves and their regular review of the charity's financial position and performance that the charity is well placed to manage its financing and business risks satisfactorily and they therefore consider it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing these accounts.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.4 Incoming resources

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

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

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

Assets for distribution are recognised only when distributed. Assets given for use by the charity are recognised when receivable. Stocks of undistributed donated goods are not valued for balance sheet purposes.

Shop income and income derived from events is recognised as earned (that is, as the related goods or services are provided).

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Costs of generating funds are the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be attributed directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Included within support costs are governance costs including the preparation of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustees' meetings and the cost of any legal advice on governance or constitutional matters.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

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

Leasehold improvements	10 years straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	5 years straight line
Computer equipment	100%
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Non-current investments

Fixed asset investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date.

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent costs, and are charged or credited to the statement of financial activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are charged or credited to the statement of financial position based on the market value at the year end.

1.8 Impairment of non-current assets

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

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in income/ (expenditure) for the year, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately, unless the relevant asset is carried in at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.9 Inventories

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

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.11 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

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

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

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

Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

1.12 Employee benefits

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

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

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

1.13 Retirement benefits

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

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds general £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Donations and gifts	16,261	-	16,261	35,896
Legacies receivable	164,432	-	164,432	47,851
Grants receivable	185,509	54,073	239,582	224,333
	<u>366,202</u>	<u>54,073</u>	<u>420,275</u>	<u>308,080</u>
For the year ended 31 March 2020	<u>205,822</u>	<u>102,258</u>		<u>308,080</u>

3 Charitable activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Transcription income	1,228	578
Transcription training income	46	1,881
	<u>1,274</u>	<u>2,459</u>

4 Other trading activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Fundraising events	36,551	71,608
Shop income	241,614	223,296
	<u>278,165</u>	<u>294,904</u>

Included in the shop income are amounts relating to the the sale of new and used equipment specifically designed to aid blind and partially sighted people as per the mission statement of the charity.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds general 2021 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income from listed investments	3,599	-	-	3,599	4,556
Interest receivable	14	6	2	22	1,056
	<u>3,613</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3,621</u>	<u>5,612</u>

6 Raising funds

	2021 £	2020 £
<u>Fundraising and publicity</u>		
Other fundraising costs	3,285	3,620
Staff costs	14,862	27,982
Support costs	1,431	4,242
	<u>19,578</u>	<u>35,844</u>
<u>Trading costs</u>		
Operating charity shops	93,585	130,993
Staff costs	123,638	114,915
Support costs	3,463	4,731
	<u>220,686</u>	<u>250,639</u>
<u>Investment management</u>	1,325	866
	<u>241,589</u>	<u>287,349</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

7 Charitable activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs	171,112	180,797
Depreciation and impairment	-	6,647
Staff travelling, expenses and training	6,059	11,746
Rent	14,142	12,950
Rates	-	588
Heat and light	1,341	740
Insurance	3,869	2,674
Telephone	2,100	1,931
Social and outings	773	13,521
Home visiting scheme	279	1,271
Dorset link	1,891	1,512
PR and advertising	-	914
Sight equipment vehicle expenses	4,257	5,469
Transcription expenses	-	23
	<u>205,823</u>	<u>240,783</u>
Share of support costs (see note 8)	71,202	81,815
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	12,005	11,120
	<u>289,030</u>	<u>333,718</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	226,478	249,724
Unrestricted funds - designated	-	460
Restricted funds	62,552	83,534
	<u>289,030</u>	<u>333,718</u>
For the year ended 31 March 2020		
Unrestricted funds - general	249,724	
Unrestricted funds - designated	460	
Restricted funds	83,534	
	<u>333,718</u>	

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2021	2020	Basis of allocation
	£	£	£	£	
Staff costs	28,250	-	28,250	27,982	Staff time
Depreciation	27,148	-	27,148	28,958	Support
Staff travelling and	-	-	-	2,536	Staff time
Rent	4,714	-	4,714	5,550	Usage
Rates	-	-	-	252	Usage
Heat and light	447	-	447	317	Usage
Insurance	1,290	-	1,290	1,146	Usage
Telephone	700	-	700	828	Usage
Office costs	8,063	-	8,063	13,748	Usage
Bank charges	2,021	-	2,021	4,348	Usage
PR and advertising	-	-	-	392	Usage
Legal and professional	-	15,468	15,468	13,248	Governance
Independent examiners	-	-	-	2,603	Governance
	<u>72,633</u>	<u>15,468</u>	<u>88,101</u>	<u>101,908</u>	
Analysed between					
Fundraising	1,431	-	1,431	4,242	
Trading	-	3,463	3,463	4,731	
Charitable activities	71,202	12,005	83,207	92,935	
	<u>72,633</u>	<u>15,468</u>	<u>88,101</u>	<u>101,908</u>	

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

10 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021	2020
	Number	Number
Administration	4	4
Service delivery	4	5
Sales and marketing	1	1
Shop staff	8	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	17	17
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Employment costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	314,012	277,690
Social security costs	17,915	19,475
Other pension costs	5,935	3,880
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	337,862	351,676
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Pension costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £51,884 (2020: £52,230).

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

11 Net losses (gains) on disposal of fixed assets

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net loss (gain) on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	1,062
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	1,062
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

12 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	13,828	(2,930)
Gain/(loss) on sale of investments	(415)	(931)
	<u>13,413</u>	<u>(3,861)</u>

13 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is, therefore, exempt from taxation.

14 Property, plant and equipment

	Leasehold improvements	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Computer equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2020	38,366	101,014	40,718	24,875	204,973
Additions	-	6,477	986	-	7,463
	<u>38,366</u>	<u>107,491</u>	<u>41,704</u>	<u>24,875</u>	<u>212,436</u>
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 April 2020	38,366	39,179	40,718	6,219	124,482
Depreciation charged in the year	-	21,498	986	4,664	27,148
	<u>38,366</u>	<u>60,677</u>	<u>41,704</u>	<u>10,883</u>	<u>151,630</u>
Carrying amount					
At 31 March 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>46,814</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,992</u>	<u>60,806</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>61,835</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,656</u>	<u>80,491</u>

15 Fixed asset investments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Listed investments	<u>118,679</u>	<u>93,572</u>
Listed investments included above:	2021	2020
	£	£
Listed investments carrying amount	<u>118,679</u>	<u>93,572</u>

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

15 Fixed asset investments

(Continued)

Fixed asset investments revalued

The historical cost of the investments is £111,498 (2020: £100,219).

Movements in non-current investments

Shares
£

Cost or valuation

At 31 March 2021

93,572

Additions

87,170

Valuation changes

13,413

Disposals

(75,476)

At 31 March 2021

118,679

Carrying amount

At 31 March 2021

118,679

At 31 March 2020

93,572

16 Financial instruments

2021

2020

£

£

Carrying amount of financial assets

Instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss

118,679

93,572

17 Inventories

2021

2020

£

£

Finished goods and goods for resale

5,378

5,168

18 Trade and other receivables

2021

2020

Amounts falling due within one year:

£

£

Trade receivables

1,188

64

Other receivables

72,003

42,173

Prepayments and accrued income

18,423

21,504

91,614

63,741

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

19 Current liabilities

	2021 £	2020 £
Other taxation and social security	4,980	5,870
Trade payables	3,616	4,660
Other payables	1,294	1,523
Accruals and deferred income	11,659	10,560
	<u>21,549</u>	<u>22,613</u>

20 Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2020 the company annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Within one year	36,000	36,000
Between two and five years	77,116	94,616
In over five years	22,656	41,156
	<u>135,772</u>	<u>171,772</u>

The operating leases represent premises rent to third parties.

21 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the charity to the fund and amounted to £5,935 (2020: £6,530). These are unrestricted funds and are analysed under charitable activities.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

22 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2021 £
		Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	
Childrens Fund	4,263	2	-	4,265
National Lottery Fund	8,479	54,073	(62,552)	-

Childrens Fund - this fund was transferred to the charity on the closure of another charity and will be spent on activities, equipment and other service support for visually impaired children.

National Lottery Fund - this fund represents a Reaching Communities grant towards the community support service.

23 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 March 2021 £
		Incoming resources £	Transfers £	
Property Fund	165,000	-	(165,000)	-
VIP Diary Group	12,798	6	(1,000)	11,804
Weymouth Hub Fund	-	-	75,000	75,000

Property Fund - this fund represents funds held for the purchase of a potential property in the future.

VIP Diary Group - this fund represents monies held on behalf of our North Dorset Club from the sale of their specialist diaries for visually impaired people to be spent as directed by the Club.

Weymouth Hub Fund - this fund is to enable the development of a hub in the Weymouth area, to include a charity shop and potentially a community cafe. The purpose is to grow our physical presence in this part of Dorset and provide a base from which we can increase the delivery of our community support services.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

24 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Designated funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2021 are represented by:					
Property, plant and equipment	60,806	-	-	60,806	80,491
Investments	43,679	75,000	-	118,679	93,572
Current assets/(liabilities)	296,172	11,804	4,265	312,241	131,534
	<u>400,657</u>	<u>86,804</u>	<u>4,265</u>	<u>491,726</u>	<u>305,597</u>

25 Events after the reporting date

Following a review of conditions which existed at the balance sheet date, the impacts of COVID-19 have not been identified as giving rise to any adjusting post balance sheet events. The main impacts of COVID-19 are forward looking, therefore this has been reviewed in more detail in the going concern note in note 1.2 to these accounts.

26 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel, including directors, is as follows.

	2021 £	2020 £
Aggregate compensation	<u>51,884</u>	<u>52,230</u>

Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity there were the following transactions with related parties:

	Purchase of goods	
	2021 £	2020 £
Other related parties	<u>500</u>	<u>615</u>
	<u>500</u>	<u>615</u>

During the year a number of trustees donated goods for the charity to sell in its charity shops.

DORSET BLIND ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

27 Cash generated from operations	2021	2020
	£	£
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	186,129	(14,935)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(3,621)	(5,612)
(Gain)/loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	-	1,062
Loss on disposal of investments	415	931
Fair value gains and losses on investments	(13,828)	2,930
Depreciation and impairment of property, plant and equipment	27,148	35,605
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in inventories	(210)	(1,435)
(Increase) in trade and other receivables	(27,873)	(11,772)
(Decrease) in trade and other payables	(1,064)	(2,894)
Cash generated from operations	<u>167,096</u>	<u>3,880</u>
28 Analysis of changes in net funds		
The charity had no debt during the year.		