

THE SOHO SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1146589

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	07899282
Registered	2012-03-26
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Soho Society 55 Dean Street London W1D 6AF
Phone	0300 302 1301
Email	admin@thesohosociety.org.uk
Website	www.thesohosociety.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (I) TO PROMOTE HIGH STANDARDS OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE IN OR AFFECTING THE AREA OF BENEFIT. (II) TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, NATURAL HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE OF THE AREA OF BENEFIT.(III) TO SECURE THE PRESERVATION PROTECTION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF FEATURES OF HISTORIC OR PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT.

Activities: The charity operates in Soho. Its planning and licensing sub committees look at all the planning and licensing applications for the area and support, object or comment on them as appropriate. The charity, where appropriate, plays a lobbying, campaigning and influencing role in all aspects of Soho life. The charity seeks to foster community in Soho by supporting a wide range of social events.

Classification

- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- City Of Westminster

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£57,112	£56,597	-	-
2023-12-31	£48,997	£47,231	-	-
2022-12-31	£68,149	£53,590	-	-
2021-12-31	£43,898	£49,219	-	-
2020-12-31	£12,382	£21,430	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Tim Lord	Chair	2017-04-27
Andrew Mackay		2019-03-21
DAVID GLEESON		2012-01-05
Hannah Turnbull		2024-04-16
Helen Paynter		2024-07-29
Jane Doyle		2017-04-27
Jason Fisher-Jones		2020-10-01
Lucy Haine		2018-04-26
MARGARET ANNE BLOOMER		2012-06-21
Marina Giorgina Tempia		2017-04-27
Nick Clemmow		2022-11-22
Takashi O'Rourke		2018-11-15
Wendy Hardcastle		2024-02-24

THE SOHO SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1146589

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07899282 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1146589

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024
for
The Soho Society

OD Accountants Ltd
7A Ezra Street
London
E2 7RH

TUESDAY



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COMPANIES HOUSE

The Soho Society

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

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The Soho Society

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Background

Soho is a remarkable quarter of a square mile with a remarkable history. From around the end of the seventeenth century it was already an established residential district and has housed such luminaries as Karl Marx, Casanova, Canaletto, William Blake, Isaac Newton, Dr Johnson and the great composers Haydn and Mozart.

The Soho Society was formed in 1972 to make Soho a better place to live, work and visit. Within a few months it had gained formal consultative status with Westminster City Council on all planning, licensing, traffic and environmental matters. Very soon, the Society persuaded Westminster City Council to make Soho a Conservation Area - with the intention of trying to prevent the demolition and the consequent loss of the existing residential and business communities.

Purposes and aims

The charity's purposes as set out in the objectives contained in the company's memorandum and articles of association are:

- o To promote the further environmental improvement of Soho by encouraging high standards of planning, architecture, and licensing;
- o To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area; and
- o To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area.

We have a formal consultative role to Westminster City Council in relation to all Planning and Licensing applications in Soho. We coordinate and represent the views of residents and businesses in our community. We provide advice, participate in particular issues and campaigns, draw together and share information and views about events and issues in Soho and generally make use of our various communication channels.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance "public benefit: running a charity (PB2)".

The Society relies on volunteers for its activities, with paid administrative support from a contractor, Anna Doyle, for the preparation of the agenda for our monthly planning meetings. We once again acknowledge the invaluable advice and support from Richard Brown of Westminster Citizens' Advice Bureau.

The continuing voluntary work covers a wide range of activities including contributing to, and helping to distribute our quarterly magazine; producing our weekly community radio show, reviewing planning and licensing applications; putting on events, particularly the Fete; and liaising with stakeholders in the residential and business communities, with other Westminster based amenity and representative groups and with Westminster City Council.

The Soho Society

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Achievements and performance during the year 2024

We continue to run monthly planning, licensing and trustees meetings in the Clock Tower and online. We ran the Village Fete on Sunday 21 July 2024 had our Annual General Meeting on 16 April 2024.

On 6 May 2022 the new Labour administration took control of Westminster City Council. The Society's engagement with the council is key to its work and the change in administration has made a significant difference in a number of ways.

Living in the centre of a global city is a privilege and has a number of advantages. However, Soho, and Westminster more generally, serves a much wider audience than simply the people that live there. Westminster has about 250,000 residents but maybe four times as many visitors and workers who come to Westminster every day. Soho has approximately 3,000 residents with maybe a 100,000 workers and visitors every day.

Further, economic activity in Westminster has both a London wide and national significance. Some aspects of this economic activity, such as intensification of F&B businesses, intensification of activity at night and "financialisation" of the property market can have adverse impacts on current residents and the communities that have existed for centuries in the centre of London. Sometimes those interests conflict and it is the role of the council to strike a reasonable balance between the various interest groups.

The Soho Society, and a number of other amenity societies in Westminster, had been concerned that the previous administration had got that balance wrong - specifically putting the interests of commercial property investment above over the interests of residents in a way that was not sustainable. While we had begun to see a better balance being struck by the new administration as promised in its manifesto, we now face new threats in the form of the London Mayor who is keen to take control of a strip of central London without much discussion with the people that live there. Fortunately, the Labour council continues to oppose the plans for Mayoral Development Corporation for Oxford Street and for the removal of buses and taxis from Oxford Street – plans which had been rejected by both the community and the Conservative Council in 2018 and the Labour council from 2022.

A number of areas of concern with the council itself remain and would include:

The management of rental e-bikes and the impact on the safety and accessibility of the public realm has been an issue - though things have improved following engagement with the council and the operators.

The supposedly temporary scheme on Regent Street to remove 2 lanes of traffic to increase room for pedestrians for COVID distancing. This temporary measure had been made permanent without any credible explanation and the council has ignored residents' concerns about congestion and access for emergency vehicles. Various engagement events continue but the safety issues are ignored. This remains a frustration as does the council's inability to properly distance itself from the property interests that lobby it for special treatment.

The management of noise complaints continues to be unsatisfactory. The council has since September 2024 been using 9 fixed noise monitors in Soho to measure a baseline of noise nuisance. The initial results are already shocking with very high levels of noise measured throughout the night, the council now needs to move quickly to survey residents, publish the results and come up with a meaningful plan for mitigation. Such mitigation need not pose a serious threat to Soho's night-time economy as many of the noise nuisance sources are only directly related to the NTE, such as deliveries, waste collections, glass collections, pedicabs, car horns and car amplified music and racing. Only dispersal is directly a function of the NTE which just needs to be properly managed both to reduce nuisance but also crime.

The council has now published its night-time economy strategy for consultation, and some aspects are to be welcomed as it does suggest safety and security are key not just for residents but also for visitors. However, the first five years of the action plan is thin on actual interventions to deliver increased safety and security, and we will continue to make suggestions on safer dispersal and more police resources and management to attempt to reduce the very high amount of crime that takes place in the West End Ward.

The Soho Society

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The continued lack of proper and permanent public toilet provision in Soho with facilities in Broadwick Street still closed. The new administration has promised to re-open the Great Marlborough Street toilets and has provided a temporary solution at weekends. The council's night-time economy consultation suggests that visitors too think that toilet provision and amenities need to be improved.

We have urged the council to get on with revising its licensing policy to reflect the cumulative impact assessment (CIA) it completed in December 2023 – we remain concerned about the extensive delay given the seriousness of the crime and nuisance issues the council itself identified.

We have welcomed the council's more recent initiatives to increase CCTV coverage throughout Westminster but also where most of the crime is located: in the West End. The council has proposed an additional 200 cameras for the Borough. Early results suggest that it is effective.

Our relationship with businesses and property companies which was tested during the various pandemic interventions, has partly improved, especially with Shaftesbury Capco following the completion of the merger. Shaftesbury Capco executives recently attended the Society's trustees' meeting and we have a monthly meeting with their community team. The relationship with Soho's other major landowner, Soho Estates (and the Soho Business Alliance) remains a difficult one. The SBA provided misleading information to journalists about the Soho Society on the objection rate of the Society's planning group (its typically 20% not 99%). While the publication Metro has printed a retraction, no apology has been offered by the SBA. Soho Estates continues to lobby hard for the pedestrianisation of Greek and Old Compton Street but is not meaningfully engaging with concerns over crime and nuisance that such interventions may make worse.

The Soho Society

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Planning

In 2024 the Planning Group continued to meet monthly, usually in a hybrid form with some members in the Tower Room, or in St Anne's church meeting rooms, with others joining on Zoom.

We considered 309 applications in the year 2024, a small drop from 2023. We had objections to 59 (19%) of these applications and made suggestions/comments for a number of others. This is fewer than in 2023 when the objection rate was 23.5%.

Our main concerns centred on applications which were likely to adversely affect residential amenity, the heritage of the Soho Conservation Area and accessibility on Soho streets. The major applications of concern were 17-19 Soho Square, 7 Leicester Place, and 14-15 Manette Street.

We continued to give advice and support to residents on specific applications where possible, and we also engaged with a number of applicants who approached us for our views prior to submitting applications.

We increased engagement with the council case officers on planning and planning enforcement, including making joint site visits and inclusion in meetings with developers, which has proved very helpful.

Licensing

The Licensing Committee examines all applications for premises licences in Soho, including premises that have not previously held a licence, and extensions of existing licences to later into the night.

Every new alcohol licence granted by Westminster Council, or granting of extended hours, adds to the number of people drinking alcohol and brings more - often inebriated - people on to the already crowded streets of Soho. The cumulative impact of this can be more crime, sometimes violent, noise disturbance, and general unpleasantness on our streets.

It is worth noting that we do not object to straightforward renewals of licences, such as sex entertainment licences for established venues where there is no history of issues.

If local residents or businesses, the Soho Society, the Police, or the Environmental Health Officer, believe there are potential adverse effects to the granting of an application and submit their concerns, the application goes to a panel of three Councillors (two from the majority and one from the minority party) to make a decision on whether or not to grant the applicant's request.

We are guided by Westminster City Council's Licensing Policy and the Soho Society's own Licensing Mandate, we continue to be guided by the objective of making Soho a better place to live, work and visit. All applications for alcohol sales and late-night premises are examined and we make representations to any that apply for licensing hours outside Westminster's Licensing Core Hours Policy and those that we believe may have a negative impact on Soho. We continue to support residents in providing advice and attend licensing hearings, their representations are particularly important in highlighting to the Licensing Sub-Committee the impact on their lives of living in an area with such a high number of licensed premises.

In 2024, the Licensing Committee has reviewed a total of 115 applications. This is slightly down from the previous years' record total of 120.

Of the 115 applications we looked at, the licensing committee submitted representations to Westminster Council regarding 46 of the applications, this is compared to 53 in 2023. No representations were made with regard to the 69 remaining applications. 7 applications were subsequently withdrawn by the applicant and The Soho Society withdrew its representations in 10 of the applications.

The Soho Society

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

We attended the majority of the Westminster Council Licensing Sub-Committee hearings. 25 applications were granted by the licensing sub-committee, 3 were refused (including a 1am extension of a restaurant licence, and an entertainment venue's application for an increase in capacity of 620 to 920) and 2 applications remain outstanding.

11 New alcohol licences were granted totaling capacity of more than 374 persons. These consisted of 4 new restaurants, 2 supermarkets, 1 event space, 1 hairdressers, 1 cafe, 1 cake shop, and 1 gin distillery. An existing licence for a new entertainment venue on Brewer Street was granted an increase in capacity from 360 to 550 until 12am.

6 licences were reviewed by Westminster Council; 2 of these were due to sexual assaults taking place on the premises, and 4 licences were reviewed due to breach of licence conditions which resulted in 2 licences being revoked.

We once again thank Richard Brown of Westminster CAB for his invaluable advice and support to the Society and residents.

Other Activities

In addition to these continuous activities, the Society undertook the following other activities in 2024, summarised below.

Community cohesion

Clarion: Our quarterly magazine, prints approximately 2,500 copies, with copies posted to members and the remainder distributed through Soho by volunteers to local businesses.

Newsletter: We publish an e-newsletter (approximately monthly) and make growing use of social media.

Soho Radio: We have continued the weekly Soho Society Hour on Soho Radio, with programmes throughout the year from guests, including musicians, playwrights, lawyers, art galleries, etc. All episodes are available after broadcast on our website and on Mixcloud. Our broadcast slot has recently changed to 7 am on Fridays due to changes at Soho Radio.

Social Events: The Fete returned to its normal slot in July and was again a great success. We thank all the volunteers who devote their time to planning the event and supervising it on the day.

Landmarks

We have been involved in a number of specific campaigns on specific proposals for important landmarks and buildings in Soho:

Twentieth Century House: We are still fighting the plans to demolish this 1930's building with links to the UK film industry in Soho Square. Royal London have withdrawn their application for demolition with a retained facade. It is currently unclear what the freeholder plans to do with the building which remains empty. Royal London recently applied for a certificate of immunity from listing for the building which we opposed

Berwick Street: The development has finally been completed with the hotel open and the shops open. There have been noise issues from some of the premises as events with amplified music have been held. It's likely that two of the units will seek a restaurant permission and we remain concerned about the impact on residents of two new restaurants and the noise, waste, and deliveries that this will involve. An application was made for a new alcohol license for 9 Berwick Street converting a shop into a restaurant (or more accurately, a bar). The licence was initially refused as a young family were living above with a 6 month old child. The family have since been moved out and the licence was then granted on the second application. As more families leave Soho to allow increases in F&B establishments our community will be reduced and the numbers at the Parish School will fall further. We question whether this is the way forward. We now have restaurants including a take away pizza offering which has led to increased littering and noise as we predicted.

The Soho Society

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

2-4 Dean Street (the Tesco Site): At the end of 2022 we were approached by the freeholder of 2-4 Dean Street with a proposal for the redevelopment of the site of the Tesco store. We expressed concern with a number of aspects of the scheme including the loss of Soho's main supermarket, the loss of the 1929 Art Deco building at 7 Soho Square, the massing of the replacement buildings, the creation of a new entrance into Soho Square and the environmental impact of demolition. The scheme was rejected by the council's planning committee in October 2023 and a new application has now been made and we are discussing it with the applicant and the council. Some concerns remain over whether sufficient retail space exists to allow the supermarket to return and with the loss of the 7 Soho Square building. Permission has now been granted but a supermarket must be retained on the ground floor. The attractive unlisted art deco building in Soho Square will be lost as consent was granted by the council's planning committee over our objections.

Health Centre in the Soho Hospital for Women: During the pandemic the old walk-in centre on the ground floor of the Hospital was used as a reception area for local people suspected of having covid, and an upper floor for training NHS workers. The pharmacy stayed open during COVID. The GPs have returned with face to face appointments. The walk-in centre is open at the weekend from 10am to 4pm.

Future of Soho

Soho Neighbourhood Forum: We led the formal establishment of this forum in 2015, representing businesses and residents. The forum continued to work hard over the year, with the resulting Neighbourhood Plan having passed its referendum on 2 September 2021 with a resounding majority. The steering group continues to meet and is now chaired by Blyth Dunk who works in Soho. Its main area of focus is CIL projects. During 2024 the Forum procured a detailed study of Soho's heritage and the creation of an online digital map that you can see on the Plan For Soho website.

Membership

We have had a slight increase at around 420 members with increased reach and engagement for the Society via social media. We have over 6,800 followers on X/ formerly known as Twitter, and over 2,500 on Instagram.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

07899282 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1146589

Registered office

55 Dean Street
London
W1D 6AF

The Soho Society

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

Trustees

Ms M A Bloomer Writer
Ms. J Doyle Trustee
J Fisher-Jones Film Director
D Gleeson Media Consultant
Ms K L S J Haine Retail Director
R T Lord Trustee
A E Mackay Musician
T B O'Rourke Company Director
Ms M G Tempia Trustee
N K Clemmow Operations Director
Ms W Hardcastle Retired (appointed 24/2/2024)
Ms H S Paynter Barrister (appointed 29/7/2024)
J H R Rocha General Manager (appointed 16/4/2024)
Ms H Turnbull Marketing Consultant (appointed 16/4/2024)

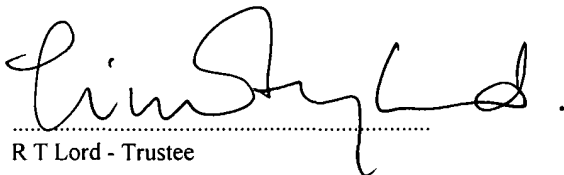
Company Secretary

N K Clemmow

Independent Examiner

Niall O'Driscoll FCMA
OD Accountants Ltd
7A Ezra Street
London
E2 7RH

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 20 September and signed on its behalf by:


.....
R T Lord - Trustee

2025.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
The Soho Society

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Soho Society ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Niall O'Driscoll

Niall O'Driscoll FCMA

OD Accountants Ltd
7A Ezra Street
London
E2 7RH

Date: 18th April 2025

The Soho Society

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	31/12/24 Total funds £	31/12/23 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		9,038	-	9,038	6,923
Other trading activities	2	47,608	-	47,608	41,782
Other income		466	-	466	292
Total		<u>57,112</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>57,112</u>	<u>48,997</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	3	34,699	-	34,699	31,466
Charitable activities					
Grants to institutions		17,252	-	17,252	15,765
other		4,646	-	4,646	-
Total		<u>56,597</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>56,597</u>	<u>47,231</u>
NET INCOME		515	-	515	1,766
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		41,182	9,144	50,326	48,560
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>41,697</u></u>	<u><u>9,144</u></u>	<u><u>50,841</u></u>	<u><u>50,326</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Soho Society

Balance Sheet
31st December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	31/12/24 Total funds £	31/12/23 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	-	-	-	64
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	2,015	-	2,015	7,480
Prepayments and accrued income		10,706	-	10,706	10,706
Cash in hand		42,746	9,144	51,890	37,677
		<u>55,467</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>64,611</u>	<u>55,863</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(13,770)	-	(13,770)	(5,601)
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>41,697</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>50,841</u>	<u>50,262</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>41,697</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>50,841</u>	<u>50,326</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>41,697</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>50,841</u>	<u>50,326</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	10			41,697	41,182
Restricted funds				9,144	9,144
TOTAL FUNDS					
				<u>50,841</u>	<u>50,326</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st December 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each 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 charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

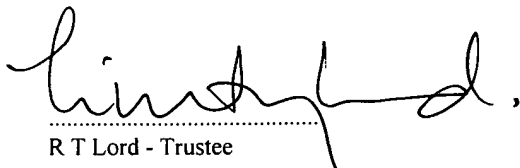
The Soho Society

Balance Sheet - continued

31st December 2024

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 20 Sept 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:


.....
R T Lord - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	- 10% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31/12/24	31/12/23
	£	£
Fundraising events	<u>47,608</u>	<u>41,782</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

3. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	31/12/24	31/12/23
	£	£
Cost of Sales	32,169	29,030
Support costs	2,467	-
	<u>34,636</u>	<u>29,030</u>

4. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31/12/24	31/12/23
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	64	107
	<u>64</u>	<u>107</u>

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2024 nor for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st December 2024 nor for the year ended 31st December 2023.

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	6,923	-	6,923
Other trading activities	41,782	-	41,782
Other income	292	-	292
Total	<u>48,997</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,997</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	31,466	-	31,466
Charitable activities			
Grants to institutions	15,765	-	15,765
Total	<u>47,231</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,231</u>
NET INCOME	1,766	-	1,766

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	39,416	9,144	48,560
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>41,182</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>50,326</u>

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2024	<u>2,079</u>	<u>4,210</u>	<u>6,289</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st January 2024	2,079	4,146	6,225
Charge for year	-	64	64
At 31st December 2024	<u>2,079</u>	<u>4,210</u>	<u>6,289</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st December 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31st December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>64</u>

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31/12/24 £	31/12/23 £
Trade debtors	<u>2,015</u>	<u>7,480</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31/12/24	31/12/23
	£	£
Trade creditors	145	50
Accruals and deferred income	13,625	5,551
	<u>13,770</u>	<u>5,601</u>

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.24	Net movement in funds	At 31.12.24
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	41,182	515	41,697
Restricted funds			
Restricted Funds - All Funds	9,144	-	9,144
	<u>50,326</u>	<u>515</u>	<u>50,841</u>

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

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	57,112	(56,597)	515
	<u>57,112</u>	<u>(56,597)</u>	<u>515</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.23	Net movement in funds	At 31.12.23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	39,416	1,766	41,182
Restricted funds			
Restricted Funds - All Funds	9,144	-	9,144
	<u>48,560</u>	<u>1,766</u>	<u>50,326</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	48,997	(47,231)	1,766
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>48,997</u>	<u>(47,231)</u>	<u>1,766</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	39,416	2,281	41,697
Restricted funds			
Restricted Funds - All Funds	9,144	-	9,144
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>48,560</u>	<u>2,281</u>	<u>50,841</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	106,109	(103,828)	2,281
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>106,109</u>	<u>(103,828)</u>	<u>2,281</u>

The Soho Society

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st December 2024.

The Soho Society

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

	31/12/24	31/12/23
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Gifts	1	(1)
Subscriptions	9,037	6,924
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9,038	6,923
Other trading activities		
Fundraising events	47,608	41,782
Other income		
Interest	466	292
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources	57,112	48,997
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Cost of Sales	32,169	29,030
Other trading activities		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	63	108
Charitable activities		
Insurance	481	444
Telephone	20	20
Advertising	1,602	180
Sundries	200	2,286
Learning material & facilities	8,532	-
Rent	-	8,259
Premises	820	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11,655	11,189
Support costs		
Finance		
Bank charges	9	21
Human resources		
Software licences	3,044	2,421
Other		
Professional fees	7,190	2,134

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

The Soho Society

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

	31/12/24	31/12/23
	£	£
Other		
Governance costs		
Accountancy fees	<u>2,467</u>	<u>2,328</u>
Total resources expended	<u>56,597</u>	<u>47,231</u>
Net income	<u>515</u>	<u>1,766</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

THE SOHO SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1146589

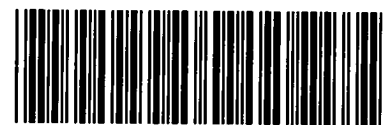
Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07899282 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1146589

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023
for
The Soho Society

OD Accountants Ltd
7A Ezra Street
London
E2 7RH

TUESDAY



A19 *ADBT4DU0* 17/09/2024 #53
COMPANIES HOUSE

The Soho Society

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

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Statement of Financial Activities	8
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The Soho Society

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Background

Soho is a remarkable ¼ of a square mile with a remarkable history. From around the end of the seventeenth century it was already an established residential district and has housed such luminaries as Karl Marx, Casanova, Canaletto, William Blake, Isaac Newton, Dr Johnson and the great composers Haydn and Mozart.

The Soho Society was formed in 1972 to make Soho a better place to live, work or visit. Within a few months it had gained formal consultative status with Westminster City Council on all planning, licensing, traffic and environmental matters. Very soon, the Society persuaded Westminster City Council to make Soho a Conservation Area – with the intention of trying to prevent the demolition and the consequent loss of the existing residential and business communities.

Purposes and aims

The charity's purposes as set out in the objectives contained in the company's memorandum and articles of association are:

To promote the further environmental improvement of Soho by encouraging high standards of planning, architecture, and licensing;

To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area; and

To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area.

We have a formal consultative role to Westminster City Council in relation to all Planning and Licensing applications in Soho. We coordinate and represent the views of residents and businesses in our community. We provide advice, participate in particular issues and campaigns, draw together and share information and views about events and issues in Soho and generally make use of our various communication channels.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance "public benefit: running a charity (PB2)".

The Society relies on volunteers for its activities, with paid administrative support from a contractor, Anna Doyle, for the preparation of the agenda for our monthly planning meetings. We once again acknowledge the invaluable advice and support from Richard Brown of Westminster CAB.

The continuing voluntary work covers a wide range of activities including contributing to, and helping to distribute our quarterly magazine; reviewing planning and licensing applications; putting on events, particularly the Fete; and liaising with stakeholders in the residential and business communities, with other amenity and representative groups and with Westminster City Council.

The Soho Society

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Achievements and performance during the year 2023

As restrictions were lifted in January 2022 our activities returned to normal with in person planning and licensing meetings returning over time. We ran the Village Fete on Sunday 10 July 2022 had our AGM on 22 September. The key event of the year, which has impacted much of the Society's work, was the local elections on 6 May 2022. The Society ran a well-attended hustings jointly with the Marylebone Association and the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association in which each of the Labour and Conservative Candidates for the West End Ward faced questions from Soho residents. Many questions were asked about the council's plans to make the AI Fresco scheme permanent and its Vision for Soho proposals. The election result saw a change in control of the council with Labour taking control for the first time in the council's history and three Labour candidates returned for the West End Ward. The new Labour administration at the council abandoned the proposed return of AI Fresco and the Vision for Soho proposals were put on hold. The council has started a process to make changes to the City Plan and is now also starting the process of carrying out its cumulative impact assessment. The Society's planning and licensing groups are closely engaging with the council on these issues.

We are very concerned about proposals in the Government's Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which make the pavement licensing regime introduced during the pandemic permanent. Also of concern are changes to regulatory easements deregulating off-sales. The Society has responded and invited other residents' groups to do so.

The Society carried out a noise survey in September 2022 which indicated that Soho residents face serious health and wellbeing issues with noise at night causing sleep deprivation night after night. We also held a number of public meetings. This information has been shared with the council and will, we hope, inform its review of cumulative impact. The council has also started a tender process to appoint consultants to carry out a detailed study on noise, air quality and traffic in Soho which we welcome. We continue to ask the council to take seriously the adverse impact of sleep deprivation caused by environmental noise in Soho at night.

Capital and Counties and Shaftesbury announced a merger in May 2022 which was completed on 22 February 2023. The combined entity controls between 30% and 40% of all retail rental properties in Soho and between 50% and 60% of "Carnaby." Its development plans will likely continue to have a significant impact on Soho over time.

The Soho Society

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Planning

In 2022 we continued to meet monthly, usually in a hybrid form with some members in the Tower Room and others joining on Zoom. On the whole, this worked well, and it certainly enabled greater participation by group members. We considered 371 applications in the year. We objected to 65 (17.5%) and made suggestions/comments for 34 (9.2%). The number of applications was slightly up on 2021, although there were no new major redevelopment projects other than the Tesco site (see below). Our main concerns centred on applications which were likely to adversely affect residential amenity, heritage, and accessibility on Soho streets. We continued to support residents on specific applications where possible, and we also engaged with a number of applicants who approached us for our views prior to submitting applications. Council elections in May led to a change of administration at Westminster City Hall. The new Labour authority sounded more sympathetic to issues that the Society has championed but it will take time to bring about changes in policy and practice. The decision to halt the 'Vision for Soho' process was welcomed, and we look forward to future consideration of some of the issues raised once a council data gathering project has been completed.

Licensing

The Licensing Committee examines all applications for premises that have not previously had a licence, and extensions of existing licences to later into the night.

Every new alcohol licence granted by Westminster Council, or granting of extended hours, adds to the number of people drinking alcohol and brings more - often inebriated - people on to the already crowded streets of Soho. The cumulative impact of this can be more crime, sometimes violent, noise disturbance, and general unpleasantness on our streets.

It is worth noting that we do not object to straightforward renewals of licences, such as sex entertainment licences for established venues where there is no history of issues.

If local residents or businesses, the Soho Society, the Police, or the Environmental Health Officer, believe there are potential adverse effects to the granting, extension or renewal of a licence and submit their concerns, the application goes to a panel of three Councillors (two from the majority and one from the minority party) to make a decision on whether or not to grant the applicant's request.

The Society's Licensing Committee in 2022 considered 91 applications, a decrease from the previous year of 109 in Soho and including three in St James's Ward for premises that are (i) selling or planning to sell alcohol - restaurants, bars, cafes, supermarkets, shops, etc; (ii) premises applying for late night refreshment licences; and (iii) sexual entertainment venue licences.

We are guided by Westminster City Council's Licensing Policy and the Soho Society's own Licensing Mandate and, as with our Planning Group, we continue to be guided by the objective of making Soho a better place to live, work and visit. All applications for alcohol sales and late-night premises are examined and we make representations to any that apply for licensing hours outside Westminster's Licensing Core Hours Policy and those that we believe may have a negative impact on Soho. Representations from residents are particularly important in highlighting to the Licensing Sub-Committee the impact on their lives of living in an area with such a high number of licensed premises.

We submitted 31 written representations, a slight increase from the previous year of 28.

Of the 31 representations: 17 were granted with or without amendments; 9 were withdrawn by the applicants; the Soho Society withdrew 2 representations; and 1 application was refused. There were 2 licence reviews, with one licence being revoked and the other where additional conditions were included on the licence.

In total in 2022, 12 new alcohol licences were granted (in previously unlicensed premises) increasing capacity in Soho by 862: 9 restaurants, 2 shops, and 1 late night members club and an event space licensed until 1am and with a capacity of 180.

The Soho Society

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Other applications of note were an extension to a late night refreshment licence in a restaurant Friday - Saturday until 2am, and a restaurant / cabaret / theatre granted a sexual entertainment venue licence.

We once again thank Richard Brown of Westminster CAB for his invaluable advice and support to the Society and residents.

Other Activities

In addition to these continuous activities, the Society undertook the following other activities in 2021, summarised below.

Community cohesion and the environment

Clarion: Our quarterly magazine, prints about 2,500 copies, mainly distributed by volunteers. We also provide an e-newsletter (approximately monthly) and make growing use of social media.

Soho Radio: We have continued the weekly Soho Society Hour on Soho Radio, with programmes throughout the year, including musicians, playwrights, lawyers, art galleries, etc. All episodes are available after broadcast on our website and on Mixcloud

Social Events: The Fete returned to its normal slot in July and was again a great success.

Landmarks

We have been involved in a number of specific campaigns on specific proposals for important landmarks and buildings in Soho:

Twentieth Century House: We are still fighting the plans to demolish this iconic 1930's building with links to the UK film industry in Soho Square.. Royal London have withdrawn their application for demolition with a retained facade. It is currently unclear what the freeholder plans to do with the building which remains empty.

Berwick Street: The development has finally been completed with the hotel open and the shops open but so far only with temporary pop-up tenants. They have been noise issues from some of the premises as events with amplified music have been held. It's likely that 2 of the units will seek a restaurant permission and we remain concerned about the impact on residents of 2 new restaurants and the noise, waste, and deliveries that this will involve.

2-4 Dean Street: At the end of 2022 we were approached by the freeholder of 2-4 Dean Street with a proposal for the redevelopment of the site of the Tesco store. We expressed concern with a number of aspects of the scheme including the loss of Soho's main supermarket, the loss of the 1929 Art Deco building at 7 Soho Square, the massing of the replacement buildings, the creation of a new entrance into Soho Square and the environmental impact of demolition. The scheme that has now gone into planning remains broadly the same though the increased access to the Square has been reduced.

A number of small changes to the Westminster City Plan have been proposed including changes to the rules on demolition and refurbishment. We responded to the council's consultation and await the final proposals.

The council is also proposing to replace the Westminster Way with a new supplementary planning document dealing with the public realm. We have been involved in the pre-consultation discussions on this which may prove to be important.

Health centre in the Soho Hospital for Women: During the pandemic the old walk in Centre on the ground floor of the Hospital was used as a reception area for local people suspected of having covid, and an upper floor for training NHS workers. The pharmacy has now returned and the GPs have returned with face to face appointments again.

The Soho Society

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Future of Soho

Soho Neighbourhood Forum: We led the formal establishment of this forum in 2015, representing businesses and residents. The forum continued to work hard over the year, with the resulting Neighbourhood Plan having passed its referendum on 2 September 2021 with a resounding majority. The steering group continues to meet and is now chaired by Lucy Haine, one of the Society's trustees. Its main area of focus is CIL projects. During 2022 the Forum procured a detailed report on waste in Soho and that has led to the council committing to increased resources to ensure waste is only left out on schedule and to consider better and more environmentally friendly ways of dealing with Soho's waste.

Al Fresco and Vision for Soho: In 2020 the council closed 14 streets in Soho to allow for outside drinking and dining to help the hospitality industry that faced health restrictions on providing service inside. Throughout 2020 we encouraged the council to engage with residents on some of the issues that the scheme raised, primarily nighttime noise but also waste, access and street fouling. The council did not meaningfully engage in our concerns.

While we have sympathy for the businesses and the fact that the council had to act quickly in the emergency, our support in 2020 was conditional on the scheme being safe, well run and being a temporary intervention linked to the health restrictions that prevented restaurants from serving customers inside.

It was therefore with some frustration that we were told in February 2021 that the council would re-impose the scheme from April 2021 until September 2021 without consultation and was also now planning to make the scheme permanent. It should be remembered that the scheme covered 14 residential streets and operated 7 days a week late into the night. The leader of the council had promised in writing and on more than one occasion in 2020 that the scheme would be temporary.

Following the change in administration in May 2022 both the plans for permanent Al Fresco and the Vision for Soho proposals have thankfully been abandoned.

Membership

Membership: Membership has stayed steady at around 300 members with increased reach and engagement for the Society via social media. We have 6700 followers on Twitter, 1900 on Instagram and 1345 on Facebook.

Membership

Membership: We are pleased that we now have around 300 paid up members; we also have many people who follow us on social media (c.4,500 on Twitter, and c.700 on Facebook 1495 on Instagram).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

07899282 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1146589

Registered office

55 Dean Street
London
W1D 6AF

The Soho Society

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

Trustees

Ms M A Bloomer Writer
Ms. J Doyle Trustee
J Fisher-Jones Film Director
D Gleeson Media Consultant
Ms K L S J Haine Retail Director
J P Levack Artist (resigned 24/2/2024)
R T Lord Trustee
A E Mackay Musician
T B O'Rourke Company Director
R M Piercy Trustee (resigned 24/2/2024)
Ms M G Tempia Trustee
J Q Thompson Retired
N K Clemmow It Professional
Ms W Hardcastle (appointed 24/2/2024)

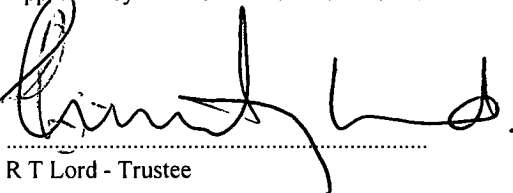
Company Secretary

N K Clemmow

Independent Examiner

Niall O'Driscoll FCMA
OD Accountants Ltd
7A Ezra Street
London
E2 7RH

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 16 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....

R T Lord - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
The Soho Society

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Soho Society ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Niall O'Driscoll

Niall O'Driscoll FCMA

OD Accountants Ltd
7A Ezra Street
London
E2 7RH

Date: 11 April 2024

The Soho Society

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	31/12/23 Total funds £	31/12/22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		6,923	-	6,923	17,630
Other trading activities	2	41,782	-	41,782	50,512
Other income		292	-	292	8
Total		<u>48,997</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,997</u>	<u>68,150</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	3	31,466	-	31,466	36,255
Charitable activities					
Grants to institutions		15,765	-	15,765	17,336
Total		<u>47,231</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,231</u>	<u>53,591</u>
NET INCOME		1,766	-	1,766	14,559
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		39,416	9,144	48,560	34,001
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>41,182</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>50,326</u>	<u>48,560</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Soho Society

Balance Sheet
31st December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	31/12/23 Total funds £	31/12/22 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	64	-	64	171
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	7,480	-	7,480	4,380
Prepayments and accrued income		10,706	-	10,706	10,465
Cash in hand		28,533	9,144	37,677	39,972
		<u>46,719</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>55,863</u>	<u>54,817</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(5,601)	-	(5,601)	(6,428)
		<u>41,118</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>50,262</u>	<u>48,389</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>41,118</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>50,262</u>	<u>48,389</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>41,182</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>50,326</u>	<u>48,560</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>41,182</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>50,326</u>	<u>48,560</u>
FUNDS	10				
Unrestricted funds				41,182	39,416
Restricted funds				9,144	9,144
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>50,326</u>	<u>48,560</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st December 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each 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 charitable company.

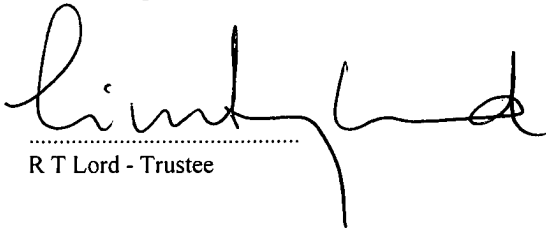
The notes form part of these financial statements

The Soho Society

Balance Sheet - continued
31st December 2023

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 16 April 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:


.....
R T Lord - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	- 10% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31/12/23	31/12/22
	£	£
Fundraising events	41,782	50,512

The Soho Society

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

3. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	31/12/23	31/12/22
	£	£
Cost of Sales	29,030	26,073
Support costs	-	7,065
	<u>29,030</u>	<u>33,138</u>

4. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31/12/23	31/12/22
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>107</u>	<u>568</u>

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2023 nor for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st December 2023 nor for the year ended 31st December 2022.

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	17,630	-	17,630
Other trading activities	50,512	-	50,512
Other income	8	-	8
Total	<u>68,150</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,150</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	36,255	-	36,255
Charitable activities			
Grants to institutions	17,336	-	17,336
Total	<u>53,591</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,591</u>
NET INCOME	14,559	-	14,559

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	24,857	9,144	34,001
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>39,416</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>48,560</u>

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1st January 2023 and 31st December 2023	<u>2,079</u>	<u>4,210</u>	<u>6,289</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st January 2023	2,079	4,039	6,118
Charge for year	-	107	107
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31st December 2023	<u>2,079</u>	<u>4,146</u>	<u>6,225</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>64</u>
At 31st December 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>171</u>	<u>171</u>

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31/12/23 £	31/12/22 £
Trade debtors	<u>7,480</u>	<u>4,380</u>

The Soho Society

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31/12/23	31/12/22
	£	£
Trade creditors	50	-
Accruals and deferred income	5,551	3,858
Accrued expenses	-	2,570
	<u>5,601</u>	<u>6,428</u>

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.23	Net movement in funds	At 31.12.23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	39,416	1,766	41,182
Restricted funds			
Restricted Funds - All Funds	9,144	-	9,144
	<u>48,560</u>	<u>1,766</u>	<u>50,326</u>

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

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	48,997	(47,231)	1,766
	<u>48,997</u>	<u>(47,231)</u>	<u>1,766</u>

The Soho Society

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	14,857	14,559	29,416
Designated Fund - rent and legal reserve	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>24,857</u>	<u>14,559</u>	<u>39,416</u>
Restricted funds			
Restricted Funds - All Funds	9,144	-	9,144
	<u>9,144</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,144</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>34,001</u>	<u>14,559</u>	<u>48,560</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	68,150	(53,591)	14,559
	<u>68,150</u>	<u>(53,591)</u>	<u>14,559</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>68,150</u>	<u>(53,591)</u>	<u>14,559</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	14,857	16,325	31,182
Designated Fund - rent and legal reserve	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>24,857</u>	<u>16,325</u>	<u>41,182</u>
Restricted funds			
Restricted Funds - All Funds	9,144	-	9,144
	<u>9,144</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,144</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>34,001</u>	<u>16,325</u>	<u>50,326</u>

The Soho Society

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	117,147	(100,822)	16,325
	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>117,147</u>	<u>(100,822)</u>	<u>16,325</u>

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st December 2023.

The Soho Society

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

	31/12/23 £	31/12/22 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Gifts	(1)	2
Donations	-	1,006
Subscriptions	6,924	16,622
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,923	17,630
Other trading activities		
Fundraising events	41,782	50,512
Other income		
Interest	292	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources	48,997	68,150
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Cost of Sales	29,030	26,073
Other trading activities		
No description	-	2,549
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	108	568
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	108	3,117
Charitable activities		
Insurance	444	406
Telephone	20	51
Advertising	180	5,807
Sundries	2,286	-
Rent	8,259	6,900
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11,189	13,164
Support costs		
Finance		
Bank charges	21	30
Human resources		
Software licences	2,421	4,172

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

The Soho Society

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

	31/12/23	31/12/22
	£	£
Human resources		
Other		
Professional fees	2,134	4,740
Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	-	2,295
Accountancy fees	2,328	-
	<u>2,328</u>	<u>2,295</u>
Total resources expended	<u>47,231</u>	<u>53,591</u>
Net income	<u>1,766</u>	<u>14,559</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

THE SOHO SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1146589

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07899282 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1146589

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022
for
The Soho Society

OD Accountants Ltd
The Brew Eagle House
163 City Road
1st Floor
London
EC1V 1NR

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

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Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	17 to 18

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Background

Soho is a remarkable ¼ of a square mile with a remarkable history. From around the end of the seventeenth century it was already an established residential district and has housed such luminaries as Karl Marx, Casanova, Canaletto, William Blake, Isaac Newton, Dr Johnson and the great composers Haydn and Mozart.

The Soho Society was formed in 1972 to make Soho a better place to live, work or visit. Within a few months it had gained formal consultative status with Westminster City Council on all planning, licensing, traffic and environmental matters. Very soon, the Society persuaded Westminster City Council to make Soho a Conservation Area – with the intention of trying to prevent the demolition and the consequent loss of the existing residential and business communities.

Purposes and aims

The charity's purposes as set out in the objectives contained in the company's memorandum and articles of association are:

To promote the further environmental improvement of Soho by encouraging high standards of planning, architecture, and licensing;

To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area; and

To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area.

We have a formal consultative role to Westminster City Council in relation to all Planning and Licensing applications in Soho. We coordinate and represent the views of residents and businesses in our community. We provide advice, participate in particular issues and campaigns, draw together and share information and views about events and issues in Soho and generally make use of our various communication channels.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance "public benefit: running a charity (PB2)".

The Society relies on volunteers for its activities, with paid administrative support from a contractor, Anna Doyle, for the preparation of the agenda for our monthly planning meetings. We once again acknowledge the invaluable advice and support from Richard Brown of Westminster CAB.

The continuing voluntary work covers a wide range of activities including contributing to, and helping to distribute our quarterly magazine; reviewing planning and licensing applications; putting on events, particularly the Fete; and liaising with stakeholders in the residential and business communities, with other amenity and representative groups and with Westminster City Council.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Achievements and performance during the year 2022

As restrictions were lifted in January 2022 our activities returned to normal with in person planning and licensing meetings returning over time. We ran the Village Fete on Sunday 10 July 2022 had our AGM on 22 September. The key event of the year, which has impacted much of the Society's work, was the local elections on 6 May 2022. The Society ran a well-attended hustings jointly with the Marylebone association and the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association in which each of the Labour and Conservative Candidates for the West End Ward faced questions from Soho residents. Many questions were asked about the council's plans to make the Al Fresco scheme permanent and its Vision for Soho proposals. The election result saw a change in control of the council with Labour taking control for the first time in the council's history and three Labour candidates returned for the West End Ward. As a result, in the change of control the council abandoned the proposed return of Al Fresco and the Vision for Soho proposals were put on hold. The council has started a process to make changes to the City Plan and is now also starting the process of carrying its cumulative impact assessment. The Society's planning and licensing groups are closely engaging with the council on these issues.

We are very concerned about proposals in the Government's Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which make the pavement licensing regime introduced during the pandemic permanent. Also changes to regulatory easements deregulating off-sales are of considerable concern. The Society has responded and invited other residents' groups to do so.

The Society carried out a noise survey in September 2022 which indicated that Soho residents face serious health and wellbeing issues with noise at night causing sleep deprivation night after night. We also held a number of public meetings. This information has been shared with the council and will, we hope, inform its review of cumulative impact. The council has also started a tender process to appoint consultants to carry out a detailed study on noise, air quality and traffic in Soho which we welcome. We continue to ask the council to take seriously the adverse impact of sleep deprivation caused by environmental noise in Soho at night.

Capital and Counties and Shaftesbury announced a merger in May 2022 which was completed on 22 February 2023. The combined entity controls between 30% and 40% of all retail rental properties in Soho and between 50% and 60% of "Carnaby." Its development plans will likely have a significant impact on Soho over time.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Planning

In 2022 we continued to meet monthly, usually in a hybrid form with some members in the Tower Room and others joining on Zoom. On the whole, this worked well, and it certainly enabled greater participation by group members. We considered 371 applications in the year. We objected to 65 (17.5%) and made suggestions/comments for 34 (9.2%). The number of applications was slightly up on 2021, although there were no new major redevelopment projects. Our main concerns centred on applications which were likely to adversely affect residential amenity, heritage, and accessibility on Soho streets. We continued to support residents on specific applications where possible, and we also engaged with a number of applicants who approached us for our views prior to submitting applications. Council elections in May led to a change of administration at Westminster City Hall. The new Labour authority sounded more sympathetic to issues that the Society has championed but it will take time to bring about changes in policy and practice. The decision to halt the 'Vision for Soho' process was welcomed, and we look forward to future consideration of some of the issues raised once a council data gathering project has been completed.

Licensing

The Licensing Committee examines all applications for premises that have not previously had a licence, and extensions of existing licences to later into the night.

Every new alcohol licence granted by Westminster Council, or granting of extended hours, adds to the number of people drinking alcohol and brings more - often inebriated - people on to the already crowded streets of Soho. The cumulative impact of this can be more crime, sometimes violent, noise disturbance, and general unpleasantness on our streets.

It is worth noting that we do not object to straightforward renewals of licences, such as sex entertainment licences for established venues where there is no history of issues.

If local residents or businesses, the Soho Society, the Police, or the Environmental Health Officer, believe there are potential adverse effects to the granting, extension or renewal of a licence and submit their concerns, the application goes to a panel of three Councillors (two from the majority and one from the minority party) to make a decision on whether or not to award the applicant's request.

The Licensing Committee in 2022 considered 91 applications, a decrease from the previous year of 109 in Soho and including three in St James's Ward for premises that are (i) selling or planning to sell alcohol - restaurants, bars, cafes, supermarkets, shops, etc; (ii) premises applying for late night refreshment licences; and (iii) sexual entertainment venue licences.

We are guided by Westminster City Council's Licensing Policy and the Soho Society's own Licensing Mandate and, as with our Planning Group, we continue to be guided by the objective of making Soho a better place to live, work and visit. All applications for alcohol sales and late-night premises are examined and we make representations to any that apply for licensing hours outside Westminster's Licensing Core Hours Policy and those that we believe may have a negative impact on Soho. Representations from residents are particularly important in highlighting to the Licensing Sub-Committee the impact on their lives of living in an area with such a high number of licensed premises.

We submitted 31 written representations, a slight increase from the previous year of 28.

Of the 31 representations: 17 were granted with or without amendments; 9 were withdrawn by the applicants; the Soho Society withdrew 2 representations; and 1 application was refused. There were 2 licence reviews, with one licence being revoked and the other where additional conditions were included on the licence.

In total, 12 new alcohol licences were granted (in previously unlicensed premises) increasing capacity in Soho by 862: 9 restaurants, 2 shops, and 1 late night members club and event space licensed until 1am and with a capacity of 180.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Other applications of note were an extension to a late night refreshment licence in a restaurant Friday - Saturday until 2am, and a restaurant / cabaret / theatre granted a sexual entertainment venue licence.

We once again thank Richard Brown of Westminster CAB for his invaluable advice and support to the Society and residents.

Other Activities

In addition to these continuous activities, the Society undertook the following other activities in 2021, summarised below.

Community cohesion and the environment

Clarion: Our quarterly magazine, prints about 2,500 copies, mainly distributed by volunteers. We also provide an e-newsletter (approximately monthly) and make growing use of social media.

Soho Radio: We have continued the weekly Soho Society Hour on Soho Radio, with programmes throughout the year, including musicians, playwrights, lawyers, art galleries, etc. All are episodes available after broadcast on our website and on Mixcloud

Social Events: The Fete returned to its normal slot in July and was again a great success.

Landmarks

We have been involved in a number of specific campaigns on specific proposals for important landmarks and provisions in Soho:

Twentieth Century House: We are still fighting the plans to demolish this iconic building. Royal London have withdrawn the application for demolition with a retained facade. It is currently unclear what the freeholder plans to do with the building which remains empty.

Berwick Street: The development has finally been completed with the hotel open and the shops open but so far only with temporary pop-up tenants. They have been noise issues from some of the premises as events with amplified music have been held. It's likely that 2 of the units will seek a restaurant permission and we remain concerned about the impact on residents of 2 new restaurants and the noise, waste, and deliveries that this will involve.

2-4 Dean Street: At the end of 2022 we were approached by the freeholder of 2-4 Dean Street with a proposal for the redevelopment of the site of the Tesco store. We expressed concern with a number of aspects of the scheme including the loss of Soho's main supermarket, the loss of the 1929 Art Deco building at 7 Soho Square, the massing of the replacement buildings, the creation of a new entrance into Soho Square and the environmental impact of demolition. The scheme that has not gone into planning remains broadly the same though the increased access to the Square has possibly been reduced.

A number of small changes to the Westminster City Plan have been proposed including changes to the rules on demolition and refurbishment. We responded to the council's consultation and await the final proposals.

The council is also proposing to replace the Westminster Way with a new supplementary planning document dealing with the public realm. We have been involved in the pre-consultation discussions on this which may prove to be important.

Health centre in the Soho Hospital for Women: During the pandemic the old walk in Centre on the ground floor of the Hospital was used as a reception area for local people suspected of having covid, and an upper floor for training NHS workers. The pharmacy has returned and the GPs have returned with face to face appointments again.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Future of Soho

Soho Neighbourhood Forum: We led the formal establishment of this forum in 2015, representing businesses and residents. The forum continued to work hard over the year, with the resulting Neighbourhood Plan having passed its referendum on 2 September 2021 with a resounding majority. The steering group continues to meet and is now chaired by Lucy Haine, one of the Society's trustees. Its main area of focus is CIL projects. During 2022 the Forum procured a detailed report on waste in Soho and that has led to the council committing to increased resources to ensure waste is only left out on schedule and to consider better and more environmentally friendly ways of dealing with Soho's waste.

Al Fresco and Vision for Soho: In 2020 the council closed 14 streets in Soho to allow for outside drinking and dining to help the hospitality industry that faced health restrictions on providing service inside. Throughout 2020 we encouraged the council to engage with residents on some of the issues that the scheme raised, primarily nighttime noise but also waste, access and street fouling. The council did not meaningfully engage in our concerns.

While we have sympathy for the businesses and the fact that the council had to act quickly in the emergency, our support in 2020 was conditional on the scheme being safe, well run and being a temporary intervention linked to the health restrictions that prevented restaurants from serving customers inside.

It was therefore with some frustration that we were told in February 2021 that the council would re-impose the scheme from April 2021 until September 2021 without consultation and was also now planning to make the scheme permanent. It should be remembered that the scheme covered 14 residential streets and operated 7 days a week late into the night. The leader of the council had promised in writing and on more than one occasion in 2020 that the scheme would be temporary. Why that promise was not kept remains unclear.

Following the change in administration in May 2022 both the plans for permanent Al Fresco and the Vision for Soho proposals have been abandoned.

Membership

Membership: Membership has stayed steady at around 300 members with increased reach and engagement for the Society via social media. We have 6700 followers on Twitter, 1900 on Instagram and 1345 on Facebook.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

07899282 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1146589

Registered office

55 Dean Street

London

W1D 6AF

The Soho Society

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

Trustees

Ms M A Bloomer Writer
Ms. J Doyle Trustee
J Fisher-Jones Film Director
D Gleeson Media Consultant
Ms K L S J Haine Retail Director
J P Levack Artist
R T Lord Trustee
A E Mackay Musician
T B O'Rourke Company Director
R M Piercy Trustee
Ms M G Tempia Trustee
J Q Thompson Retired
Ms R Waddell Trustee
N K Clemmow It Professional (appointed 22/11/2022)

Company Secretary

Independent Examiner

Niall O'Driscoll FCMA
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
OD Accountants Ltd
The Brew Eagle House
163 City Road
1st Floor
London
EC1V 1NR

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

.....
R T Lord - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
The Soho Society

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Soho Society ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Niall O'Driscoll

Niall O'Driscoll FCMA
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
OD Accountants Ltd
The Brew Eagle House
163 City Road
1st Floor
London
EC1V 1NR

Date: 9th May 2023

The Soho Society

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	31/12/22 Total funds £	31/12/21 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		17,629	-	17,629	12,414
Other trading activities	2	50,512	-	50,512	31,480
Other income		8	-	8	4
Total		<u>68,149</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,149</u>	<u>43,898</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	3	46,690	-	46,690	42,952
Charitable activities					
Grants to institutions		6,900	-	6,900	6,267
Total		<u>53,590</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,590</u>	<u>49,219</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		14,559	-	14,559	(5,321)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		24,857	9,144	34,001	39,322
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>39,416</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>48,560</u>	<u>34,001</u>

The Soho Society

Balance Sheet

31st December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	31/12/22 Total funds £	31/12/21 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	171	-	171	739
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	4,380	-	4,380	3,815
Prepayments and accrued income		10,465	-	10,465	10,755
Cash in hand		30,828	9,144	39,972	37,679
		<u>45,673</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>54,817</u>	<u>52,249</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(6,428)	-	(6,428)	(18,987)
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>39,245</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>48,389</u>	<u>33,262</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>39,416</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>48,560</u>	<u>34,001</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>39,416</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>48,560</u>	<u>34,001</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	10			39,416	24,857
Restricted funds				9,144	9,144
TOTAL FUNDS					
				<u>48,560</u>	<u>34,001</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st December 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each 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 charitable company.

The Soho Society

Balance Sheet - continued

31st December 2022

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on
and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
R T Lord - Trustee

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	- 10% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31/12/22	31/12/21
	£	£
Fundraising events	<u>50,512</u>	<u>31,480</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

3. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	31/12/22	31/12/21
	£	£
Postage and stationery	8,113	6,197
Cost of Sales	17,959	3,229
Support costs	-	32,723
	<u>26,072</u>	<u>42,149</u>

4. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31/12/22	31/12/21
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>568</u>	<u>803</u>

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2022 nor for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st December 2022 nor for the year ended 31st December 2021.

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	12,414	-	12,414
Other trading activities	31,480	-	31,480
Other income	4	-	4
Total	<u>43,898</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,898</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	42,952	-	42,952
Charitable activities			
Grants to institutions	6,267	-	6,267
Total	<u>49,219</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49,219</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(5,321)	-	(5,321)

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	30,178	9,144	39,322
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>24,857</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>34,001</u>

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1st January 2022 and 31st December 2022	2,079	4,210	6,289
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st January 2022	2,079	3,471	5,550
Charge for year	-	568	568
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31st December 2022	2,079	4,039	6,118
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st December 2022	-	171	171
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31st December 2021	-	739	739
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31/12/22 £	31/12/21 £
Trade debtors	4,380	3,815
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31/12/22	31/12/21
	£	£
Trade creditors	-	3,588
Accruals and deferred income	3,858	13,479
Accrued expenses	2,570	1,920
	<u>6,428</u>	<u>18,987</u>

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.22	Net movement in funds	At 31.12.22
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	14,857	14,559	29,416
Designated Fund - rent and legal reserve	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>24,857</u>	<u>14,559</u>	<u>39,416</u>
Restricted funds			
Restricted Funds - All Funds	9,144	-	9,144
	<u>34,001</u>	<u>14,559</u>	<u>48,560</u>

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

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	68,149	(53,590)	14,559
	<u>68,149</u>	<u>(53,590)</u>	<u>14,559</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	20,178	(5,321)	14,857
Designated Fund - rent and legal reserve	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>30,178</u>	<u>(5,321)</u>	<u>24,857</u>
Restricted funds			
Restricted Funds - All Funds	9,144	-	9,144
	<u>9,144</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,144</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>39,322</u></u>	<u><u>(5,321)</u></u>	<u><u>34,001</u></u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	43,898	(49,219)	(5,321)
	<u>43,898</u>	<u>(49,219)</u>	<u>(5,321)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>43,898</u></u>	<u><u>(49,219)</u></u>	<u><u>(5,321)</u></u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	20,178	9,238	29,416
Designated Fund - rent and legal reserve	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>30,178</u>	<u>9,238</u>	<u>39,416</u>
Restricted funds			
Restricted Funds - All Funds	9,144	-	9,144
	<u>9,144</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,144</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>39,322</u></u>	<u><u>9,238</u></u>	<u><u>48,560</u></u>

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	112,047	(102,809)	9,238
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>112,047</u>	<u>(102,809)</u>	<u>9,238</u>

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

	31/12/22 £	31/12/21 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Gifts	1	1
Donations	1,006	2,000
Subscriptions	16,622	10,413
	<u>17,629</u>	<u>12,414</u>
Other trading activities		
Fundraising events	50,512	31,480
Other income		
Interest	8	4
	<u>68,149</u>	<u>43,898</u>
Total incoming resources		
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Postage and stationery	8,113	6,197
Cost of Sales	17,959	3,229
	<u>26,072</u>	<u>9,426</u>
Other trading activities		
No description	15,472	-
No description	406	-
No description	4,172	-
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	568	803
	<u>20,618</u>	<u>803</u>
Charitable activities		
Rent	6,900	6,267
Support costs		
Management		
Telephone	-	879
Finance		
Bank charges	-	4
Human resources		
Insurance	-	364
Carried forward	-	364

The Soho Society

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

	31/12/22	31/12/21
	£	£
Human resources		
Brought forward	-	364
Postage and stationery	-	8,158
Software licences	-	1,460
	<u>-</u>	<u>9,982</u>
Other		
Professional fees	-	19,766
Governance costs		
Telephone	-	93
Accountancy fees	-	1,999
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,092</u>
Total resources expended	<u>53,590</u>	<u>49,219</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>14,559</u>	<u>(5,321)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

THE SOHO SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1146589

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07899282 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1146589

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2021
for
The Soho Society

OD Accountants Ltd
The Brew Eagle House
163 City Road
1st Floor
London
EC1V 1NR

The Soho Society

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

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Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	16 to 17

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Background

Soho is a remarkable ¼ of a square mile with a remarkable history. From around the end of the seventeenth century it was already an established residential district and has housed such luminaries as Karl Marx, Casanova, Canaletto, William Blake, Isaac Newton, Dr Johnson and the great composers Haydn and Mozart.

The Soho Society was formed in 1972 to make Soho a better place to live, work or visit. Within a few months it had gained formal consultative status with Westminster City Council on all planning, licensing, traffic and environmental matters. Very soon, the Society persuaded Westminster City Council to make Soho a Conservation Area – with the intention of trying to prevent the demolition and the consequent loss of the existing residential and business communities.

Purposes and aims

The charity's purposes as set out in the objectives contained in the company's memorandum and articles of association are:

To promote the further environmental improvement of Soho by encouraging high standards of planning, architecture, and licensing;

To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area; and

To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area.

We have a formal consultative role to Westminster City Council in relation to all Planning and Licensing applications in Soho. We coordinate and represent the views of residents and businesses in our community. We provide advice, participate in particular issues and campaigns, draw together and share information and views about events and issues in Soho and generally make use of our various communication channels.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance "public benefit: running a charity (PB2)".

The Society relies on volunteers for its activities, with paid administrative support from a contractor, Anna Doyle, for the preparation of the agenda for our monthly planning meetings. We once again acknowledge the invaluable advice and support from Richard Brown of Westminster CAB.

The continuing voluntary work covers a wide range of activities including contributing to, and helping to distribute our quarterly magazine; reviewing planning and licensing applications; putting on events, particularly the Fete; and liaising with stakeholders in the residential and business communities, with other amenity and representative groups and with Westminster City Council.

Achievements and performance during the year 2021

Despite the global pandemic the Society continued to publish the Clarion, had meetings of its executive board monthly over Zoom or in person when allowed, continued its planning and licensing work and ensured the Soho Society Hour on Soho Radio carried on broadcasting. In addition a very successful fete was held on Sunday 5 September 2021. The annual general meeting, normally held in March but now moved to later in the year as a result of the pandemic, was held on the 14 October 2021.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Planning

In 2021 we continued to meet monthly both virtually and in person and considered 336 applications in the year. We objected to 33 (10%) and made suggestions/comments for 17 (5%). The number of applications was still lower than 2019 pre Covid. The London Plan and WCC City Plan came into effect in April 2021. The Soho Neighbourhood Plan came into force on 8th October 2021. WCC applied for an Article 4 exemption to the Government from its new permitted development right to convert commercial premises (Class E) to residential. This application was still pending at the end of the year.

Licensing

Although we started the year with another COVID-19 lockdown licensing applications increased in 2021. The Licensing Group considered 109 applications in Soho including two in St James's Ward for premises that are (i) either selling or planning to sell alcohol – restaurants, bars, cafes, supermarkets, shops, etc; (ii) premises applying for late night refreshment licences; and (iii) sexual entertainment venue licences.

We are guided by Westminster City Council's Licensing Policy and the Soho Society's own Licensing Mandate and, as with our Planning Group, we continue to be guided by the objective of making Soho a better place to live, work and visit. All applications for alcohol sales and late-night premises are examined and we make representations to any that apply for licensing hours outside Westminster's Licensing Core Hours Policy and those that will have a negative impact on Soho. We continue to support residents in making representations, these representations are really important in highlighting to the Licensing Sub-Committee the impact on their lives of living in an area with such a high number of licensed premises.

We submitted written representations (objections) to 28 applications, a significant increase from the 16 representations in 2020 and 17 in 2019.

Of the 28 representations ten were granted with or without amendments, six were withdrawn by the applicants, the Soho Society withdrew seven representations, in the majority of cases the applicant agreed to our proposals, and five were refused.

In total, 18 new alcohol licences were granted in 2021; 12 restaurants / cafés, three retail shops and three other. Of note are four new 1am restaurant licences with a combined capacity of 600, plus outdoor seating for 236 until 11pm. There was also an extension of a bar licence with a capacity of 160 from 12 midnight to 1am until May 2023.

We also responded to the Council's consultation on three new policies all of which were approved, one in particular being the new Shops Policy allowing shops to apply for an alcohol licence until 11.30pm Monday to Thursday and midnight on Friday and Saturday which we opposed. The Council also completed a comprehensive revision and consultation on the new Gambling Policy which introduced Gambling Vulnerability Zones with one zone, West End East, covering part of Soho, we supported the introduction of these zones.

We would once again like to thank Richard Brown of Westminster CAB for his invaluable advice and support

Other Activities

In addition to these continuous activities, the Society undertook the following other activities in 2021, summarised below.

Community cohesion and the environment

Clarion: Our quarterly magazine, prints about 2,500 copies, mainly distributed by volunteers. We also provide an e-newsletter (approximately monthly), and make growing use of social media.

Soho Radio: We have continued the weekly Soho Society Hour on Soho Radio, with programmes throughout the year, including musicians, playwrights, lawyers, art galleries, etc. All are episodes available after broadcast on our website and on Mixcloud.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Social Events: We managed to run the Fete in 2021 following its absence in 2020 but much later in the year than usual - 5 September 2021. We were lucky to have excellent weather.

Landmarks

We have been involved in a number of specific campaigns on specific proposals for important landmarks and provisions in Soho:

Twentieth Century House: We are still fighting the plans to demolish this iconic building. Changes in the council's policy meant the applicant has had to provide much more detail on the amount of CO2 that would be released from demolition compared with refurbishment. The Society also commissioned and submitted reports to the council on this. We understand the applicant, Royal London, is considering a new application with more of the building structure being retained. Another interwar building at the other end of Oxford Street (the M&S Store) was granted permission for demolition by Westminster City Council but has since been called in the Government because of concerns over the amount of embodied CO2 which is lost through demolition. There is to be a public hearing on that - similar issues arise over Twentieth Century House.

Berwick Street: The development has now come to an end many years late. Shaftesbury has acquired the head lease and will now start to find tenants. It is of some concern that they will be applying for two new alcohol licences for restaurants on this residential street in the cumulative impact zone. Following the introduction of Class E any former retail premises can be converted to restaurant use without the need for planning permission. Prior to the development there was a Subway and a small vegetarian restaurant called Beatroot - neither, to our knowledge, served alcohol.

Health centre in the Soho Hospital for Women:

During the pandemic the old walk in Centre on the ground floor of the Hospital was used as a reception area for local people suspected of having covid, and an upper floor for training NHS workers. The pharmacy has returned and the GP's are there but face to face appointments are only used rarely.

Future of Soho

Soho Neighbourhood Forum: We led the formal establishment of this forum in 2015, representing businesses and residents. The forum continued to work hard over the year, with the resulting Neighbourhood Plan having passed its referendum on 2 September 2021 with a resounding majority. The steering group continues to meet and is now chaired by Lucy Haine, one of the Society's trustees. Its main area of focus is CIL projects.

Al Fresco and Vision for Soho: In 2020 the council closed 14 streets in Soho to allow for outside drinking and dining to help the hospitality industry that faced health restrictions on providing service inside. Throughout 2020 we encouraged the council to engage with residents on some of the issues that the scheme raised, primarily night time noise but also waste, access and street fouling. The council did not meaningfully engage in our concerns.

While we have sympathy for the businesses and the fact that the council had to act quickly in the emergency, our support in 2020 was conditional on the scheme being safe, well run and being a temporary intervention linked to the health restrictions that prevented restaurants from serving customers inside.

It was therefore with some frustration that we were told in February 2021 that the council would re-impose the scheme from April 2021 until September 2021 without consultation and was also now planning to make the scheme permanent. It should be remembered that the scheme covered 14 residential streets and operated 7 days a week late into the night. The leader of the council had promised in writing and on more than one occasion in 2020 that the scheme would be temporary. Why that promise was not kept remains unclear.

An emergency meeting was organised by the Society for 11 March 2021 in which many in the community expressed their anger and frustration with the council for re-imposing the scheme without consultation and now moving to make the scheme permanent. Councillor Matthew Green promised that there would be no continuation of the scheme beyond 30 September 2021 unless the majority of Soho's residents supported it.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

However it became clear over the following months that this promise too would be broken as no proper consultation with residents took place in 2021 despite repeated requests. Rather than consult on that issue as promised, the council instead started its Vision for Soho process. That caused yet further anger and resentment by conflating a large number of unrelated issues - traffic and greening for example. The only substantive proposal was to restart Al Fresco in Bateman and D'Arblay streets on a permanent basis in April 2022 and propose significant changes to Soho's public realm which would have led to large outdoor areas of Soho being used for commercial activity 7 days a week until 11pm. At the same time national legislation was being introduced that meant that any available space adjacent to licensed premises could be used for outdoor dining. The council were asked in September 2021 how this national legislation would be interpreted if large areas of Soho's public realm was cleared of traffic. The council never answered that question.

Councillor Barnes told us that councillors knew that the re-imposition of Al Fresco street closures in Soho in 2021 would make some 40 Soho housing units unliveable for some 100 residents but that the decision had been made and would go ahead regardless. Councillor Barnes also said that if long term residents of Soho were unhappy with the council's decisions on Al Fresco and could no longer cope with the noise in the street at night they should "potentially" move out.

While Soho has had a significant food and drinking culture which is valued by residents there has always been a balance so that activity at night took place indoors, with doors and windows closed and customer dispersal carefully managed - to allow Soho to remain a safe and healthy place to live.

The Society commissioned a noise survey that was carried out on 18 May 2021 which concluded:-

"that when assessing against WHO guidelines there is a serious risk of causing adverse health and wellbeing impacts to the residents of Soho if this continues, in the areas investigated during this survey."

The council were sent a copy of the noise survey together with an analysis questioning the legality of making the scheme permanent given the impact on residents' health and well being. The council refused to make a substantive reply on the grounds that it would not discuss these concerns unless the Society commenced litigation against it.

The local elections were held in May 2022 and the issues with Al Fresco and Vision for Soho were a key focus for candidates in the West End. For the first time since the council was created in 1965 the Conservatives lost control to the incoming Labour administration and three labour candidates were returned for the West End ward. The new administration have since suspended the Vision for Soho process and promised to properly engage with residents.

If Labour had not prevailed and had the Conservatives been able to implement their plan we believe many long term residents would have been forced to leave and those unable to do so would have suffered real harm to their health. Soho would have been changed permanently, it would have lost yet more of its residential community and much of its heritage. It would have been a disaster and in direct conflict with the objects of the Society.

Membership

Membership: We are pleased that we now have around 300 paid up members; we also have many people who follow us on social media (c.4,500 on Twitter, and c.700 on Facebook 1495 on Instagram).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

07899282 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1146589

The Soho Society

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

Registered office

55 Dean Street
London
W1D 6AF

Trustees

Ms A Ashford Landlady (resigned 17/9/2021)
Ms M A Bloomer Writer
Ms. J Doyle Trustee
J Fisher-Jones Film Director
D Gleeson Media Consultant
Ms K L S J Haine Retail Director
J P Levack Artist
R T Lord Trustee
A E Mackay Musician
T B O'Rourke Company Director
R M Piercy Trustee
Ms M G Tempia Trustee
J Q Thompson Retired
Ms R Waddell Trustee

Company Secretary

Independent Examiner

Niall O'Driscoll FCMA
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
OD Accountants Ltd
The Brew Eagle House
163 City Road
1st Floor
London
EC1V 1NR

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 22nd September 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

R T Lord - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Soho Society ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Niall O'Driscoll

Niall O'Driscoll FCMA
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
OD Accountants Ltd
The Brew Eagle House
163 City Road
1st Floor
London
EC1V 1NR

Date: 21/9/2022.....

The Soho Society

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	31/12/21 Total funds £	31/12/20 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		12,414	-	12,414	6,683
Other trading activities	2	31,480	-	31,480	5,641
Other income		4	-	4	58
Total		43,898	-	43,898	12,382
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	3	42,952	-	42,952	16,546
Charitable activities					
Grants to institutions		6,267	-	6,267	4,884
Total		49,219	-	49,219	21,430
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(5,321)	-	(5,321)	(9,048)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		30,178	9,144	39,322	48,370
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		24,857	9,144	34,001	39,322

The Soho Society

Balance Sheet

31st December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	31/12/21 Total funds £	31/12/20 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	739	-	739	1,218
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	3,815	-	3,815	1,135
Prepayments and accrued income		10,755	-	10,755	417
Cash in hand		28,535	9,144	37,679	42,944
		<u>43,105</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>52,249</u>	<u>44,496</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(18,987)	-	(18,987)	(6,392)
		<u>24,118</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>33,262</u>	<u>38,104</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>24,118</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>33,262</u>	<u>38,104</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>24,857</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>34,001</u>	<u>39,322</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>24,857</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>34,001</u>	<u>39,322</u>
FUNDS					
	10				
Unrestricted funds				24,857	30,178
Restricted funds				9,144	9,144
TOTAL FUNDS					
				<u>34,001</u>	<u>39,322</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st December 2021.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each 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 charitable company.

The Soho Society

Balance Sheet - continued

31st December 2021

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 22nd September 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

R T Lord - Trustee

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	- 10% on cost
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31/12/21	31/12/20
	£	£
Fundraising events	31,480	5,641

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

3. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	31/12/21	31/12/20
	£	£
Postage and stationery	6,197	4,580
Cost of Sales	3,229	-
Support costs	32,723	8,240
	<u>42,149</u>	<u>12,820</u>

4. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31/12/21	31/12/20
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>803</u>	<u>758</u>

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st December 2021 nor for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st December 2021 nor for the year ended 31st December 2020.

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	6,683	-	6,683
Other trading activities	5,641	-	5,641
Other income	58	-	58
Total	<u>12,382</u>	-	<u>12,382</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	16,546	-	16,546
Charitable activities			
Grants to institutions	4,884	-	4,884
Total	<u>21,430</u>	-	<u>21,430</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	<u>(9,048)</u>	-	<u>(9,048)</u>

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	39,226	9,144	48,370
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>30,178</u>	<u>9,144</u>	<u>39,322</u>

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1st January 2021	2,079	3,886	5,965
Additions	-	324	324
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31st December 2021	<u>2,079</u>	<u>4,210</u>	<u>6,289</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st January 2021	1,872	2,875	4,747
Charge for year	207	596	803
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31st December 2021	<u>2,079</u>	<u>3,471</u>	<u>5,550</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st December 2021	-	739	739
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31st December 2020	<u>207</u>	<u>1,011</u>	<u>1,218</u>

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31/12/21 £	31/12/20 £
Trade debtors	<u>3,815</u>	<u>1,135</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31/12/21	31/12/20
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,588	817
Accruals and deferred income	13,479	3,655
Accrued expenses	1,920	1,920
	<u>18,987</u>	<u>6,392</u>

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.21	Net movement in funds	At 31.12.21
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	20,178	(5,321)	14,857
Designated Fund - rent and legal reserve	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>30,178</u>	<u>(5,321)</u>	<u>24,857</u>
Restricted funds			
Restricted Funds - All Funds	9,144	-	9,144
	<u>9,144</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,144</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>39,322</u>	<u>(5,321)</u>	<u>34,001</u>

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

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	43,898	(49,219)	(5,321)
	<u>43,898</u>	<u>(49,219)</u>	<u>(5,321)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>43,898</u>	<u>(49,219)</u>	<u>(5,321)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.20	Net movement in funds	At 31.12.20
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	29,226	(9,048)	20,178
Designated Fund - rent and legal reserve	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>39,226</u>	<u>(9,048)</u>	<u>30,178</u>
Restricted funds			
Restricted Funds - All Funds	9,144	-	9,144
	<u>9,144</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,144</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>48,370</u>	<u>(9,048)</u>	<u>39,322</u>

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	12,382	(21,430)	(9,048)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>12,382</u>	<u>(21,430)</u>	<u>(9,048)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	29,226	(14,369)	14,857
Designated Fund - rent and legal reserve	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>39,226</u>	<u>(14,369)</u>	<u>24,857</u>
Restricted funds			
Restricted Funds - All Funds	9,144	-	9,144
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>48,370</u>	<u>(14,369)</u>	<u>34,001</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	56,280	(70,649)	(14,369)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>56,280</u>	<u>(70,649)</u>	<u>(14,369)</u>

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

	31/12/21 £	31/12/20 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Gifts	1	(1)
Donations	2,000	100
Subscriptions	10,413	6,584
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12,414	6,683
Other trading activities		
Fundraising events	31,480	5,641
Other income		
Interest	4	58
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources	43,898	12,382
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Postage and stationery	6,197	4,580
Cost of Sales	3,229	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9,426	4,580
Other trading activities		
Bad debts	-	2,600
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	803	758
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	803	3,358
Charitable activities		
Rent	6,267	4,584
Grants to institutions	-	300
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,267	4,884
Support costs		
Management		
Telephone	879	-
Finance		
Bank charges	4	19
Human resources		
Insurance	364	368
Postage and stationery	8,158	177
Software licences	1,460	1,337
Sundries	-	443
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9,982	2,325

The Soho Society

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

	31/12/21	31/12/20
	£	£
Human resources		
Other		
Professional fees	19,766	4,344
Governance costs		
Telephone	93	-
Accountancy fees	1,999	1,920
	<u>2,092</u>	<u>1,920</u>
Total resources expended	<u>49,219</u>	<u>21,430</u>
Net expenditure	<u>(5,321)</u>	<u>(9,048)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements