

# ISLE OF WIGHT SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

England & Wales · Charity number 1149415

## Details

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**Other names** Sight for Wight, Wight Sense

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Charitable company

**Company number** [06240404](#)

**Registered** 2012-10-22

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Website** [www.iwsb.org.uk](http://www.iwsb.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** The Charity's objects ("the Objects") are the support of (i) blind and partially-sighted persons and (ii) persons with other sensory loss, resident in the Isle of Wight in such ways as the Directors from time to time think fit and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing in the following ways: (a) the provision of facilities for education, recreation, training and employment; (b) the promotion of the wellbeing of such persons including the financial assistance of those in need; (c) in promoting the awareness of the needs of such persons amongst the general public.

**Activities:** The provision of facilities for education, recreation, training and employment for the blind and partially sighted; to promote the well-being of such persons including financial assistance to those in need; to promote the awareness of the needs of such persons amongst the general public.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Disability
- **Who:** People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

## Geography

- Isle Of Wight

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£321,286	£337,168	-	-
2024-03-31	£301,288	£319,756	-	-
2023-03-31	£263,669	£360,725	-	-
2022-03-31	£202,285	£173,055	-	-
2021-03-31	£283,930	£88,403	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Susan Patricia Bungey</b>	Chair	2013-01-08
Alison Jane Holbrook		2023-12-15
Christopher Michael Biles		2018-03-13
JOHN ANTHONY SPALDING		2022-12-06
John Moore		2015-12-10
Laura Gooljar		2017-08-14
Linda Wright		2022-12-06
Paul Humphries FCA		2025-11-25
Ruth Elizabeth Hollingshead		2012-08-09
Saretha Naude		2023-12-15

**ISLE OF WIGHT SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND**

England & Wales - Charity number 1149415

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# Accounts

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# The Isle of Wight Society for the Blind

Annual Report and Accounts  
For the Year ended  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Known as Sight for Wight and Wight Sense  
Registered Charity 1149415  
Company Limited by Guarantee Number 06240404



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## Welcome from our Chair, Sue



A warm welcome to everyone. We present our annual report and accounts for the Isle of Wight Society for the Blind, known as Sight for Wight and Wight Sense.

Established in 1865, we are the oldest Isle of Wight charity offering help, support and advice to people living with all levels of Sight Loss and, from 1 April 2022, rehabilitation services for those living with both Hearing and / or Sight loss.

During this, my seventh year as Chair of the Board of Trustees, we are now very much in full flow of the fulfilment of our Isle of Wight Sensory Contract offering Holistic Care Act assessments to anyone living with Sight and or Hearing Loss under our new second brand, Wight Sense.

Sight for Wight offers lifelong support to just over 800 Visually Impaired Island residents with members having varied levels of sight loss; each at differing stages of their sight loss journey. We treat each member as an individual and their own goals are put at the forefront of everything we do.

Without the commitment of our team of volunteers, staff and trustees, the generous ongoing donations from our supporters and the direct feedback from our members, we would not be able to offer the breadth and extent of service that we do.

Thank you to every person who has, and will, contribute to us.

**Sue Bungey - Chair of the Trustees**



## Welcome from our CEO, Lisa

My fifth and final year as CEO of our historic Charity, I am honoured to be at the helm with our services now including rehabilitation services for both Hearing and Visually Impaired Isle of Wight residents.



Now at our second-year end of measuring both our social impact and our own “What does Success look like” KPI’s. We have spent the last two years collecting quantitative and qualitative data through working with members as the unique individuals they are. So, what have we achieved

**Wight Sense** - Offering home-based person-centred assessments we agree our clients’ individual needs against targeted goals and work together to achieve them. We then call every single person three months later and ask them how they found the service. 92% of Hearing clients and Vision clients and 95% for Dual Sense clients stated they had met all of their goals. Thank you to everyone involved.

### Interactions

2025 – 5,372  
2024 - 2,248

Up 139%

### New People

2025 – 1,090  
2024 - 427

Up 155%

### Assessments

2025 - 702  
2024 - 331

Up 112%

### Follow up

2025 – 1,316  
2024 - 571

Up 130%

### One Off Queries

2025 – 1,296  
2024 - 583

Up 123%

### Onward referrals

2025 - 966  
2024 - 336

Up 188%



## Sight for Wight

Entirely reliant on fundraising from donations, grants, legacies and the giving of our volunteers' time, skills, and expertise, we have achieved the following key results with our 5 staff and 142 volunteers:

### Interactions

2025 – 20,696  
2024 - 16,922

Up 22%

### Activity Attendees

2025 – 2,204  
2024 - 2,060

Up 144

### Calls and Visits

2025 – 3,522  
2024 - 3,508

Up 14

### Volunteer Value

2025 - £103,632  
2024 - £101,982

Up £1380

### Facebook Interactions

2025 – 71,456  
2024 - 22,782

Up 214%

### Children taught

2025 - 892  
2024 - 725

Up 23%

This year we furthered our reporting to see our social impact:

**Empowerment and Independence**, through peer support we connect individuals with others who have lived experience of sight loss, fostering confidence and independence allowing people emotional resilience to grow from strength to strength.

**Community and Inclusion**, our network reduces social isolation, a very common issue among people with visual impairments, especially those who have lost sight in later life. Our group activities and shared experiences build a sense of belonging and community integration.



**Mental Health and Wellbeing**, our tailored support can significantly improve mental health outcomes for our members and their families.

**Wight Sense Rehabilitation** service reduces anxiety by helping individuals adapt to their environment and maintain routines with skills for daily living, mobility, and communication, all being offered

Our next challenge is to turn these impacts into **Measurable Outcomes**, for example, measuring increased quality of life through a scoring system, calculating the reduction in hospital admissions or reliance on other social services. Further, to measure outcomes from our direct programs, for example, our falls prevention program, our CO2 monitor installation (with funding from SGN) and befriending.

As a charity, organisations are now coming to us asking how we can help them to help our members, we offer a true advocacy for increased accessibility and inclusion, a real voice for systemic change, influencing policy and public attitudes.

## Environmental Impact

This year we introduced our quarterly newsletter to measure how we work to reuse and recycle as far as possible.

The introduction last year of our glasses recycling scheme saw 6,000 pairs of glasses saved from landfill. In the year to March 2025, this figure rose by 566% to a staggering 40,000 pairs of glasses recycled. Bedales School's Duke of Edinburgh students have continued the sorting process all year in support of this scheme. This year we also resold 3,500 garments and recycled 62kg of batteries.



### RECYCLE UPDATE 2024

**Reuse & Recycle**  
Raising funds from your donated items  
We have raised much needed funds by recycling stamps, glasses, ink cartridges and batteries. We also raise funds by selling donated items in our Charity Dress Agency, Dress for Less



<b>STAMPS</b> Raised £600	<b>GARMENTS</b> Over 3,500 garments saved from landfill
<b>GLASSES</b> Via Opticians 40,000 pairs collected and saved from landfill	<b>INK CARTRIDGES</b> Four large boxes recycled
<b>BATTERIES</b> 62Kg of batteries recycled	 

**HOW TO RECYCLE**  
Use our recycling bins at Millbrooke House to recycle stamps, glasses, ink cartridges and batteries



It is certainly true that without our volunteers, we as, a Charity, could not offer anywhere near the support we currently do. In the year to 31 March 2025 our volunteers provided over £103,000 worth of work over 6,767 hours with a range of disciplines from reception, escorts, drivers, Sighted Guides, readers, fundraisers, and befrienders.

We are delighted to report by the year end we had 142 regular volunteers (2024 117) we always aim to offer every volunteer a mutually beneficial relationship; we host quarterly social catch ups which are always attended by at least 32% of our current volunteers.

Our membership in turn has increased since 31 March 2024 from 732 to 803 people. Our quarterly member feedback sessions are well attended as we have demonstrated we listen and act on any and all suggestions and feedback. We have, as a result, introduced a tandem bike activity, thanks to a grant from Fight for Sight, which has enabled us to purchase and house three electric tandem bikes, now enjoyed every fortnight on our new regular activity.

This year we held our next Community Hearing and Sight loss day in September welcoming over 120 people to the day. Further, we held a Visionaid event during one of our coffee mornings which was very well attended with over £7,000 of equipment being bought by members in just three hours.



**IMAGE DESCRIPTION – Members at Sight Loss Day stalls**

These days are vital to our members, living on the Island means getting to see these products otherwise is cost prohibitive. Further we run a second-hand program where we sell donated and preloved items to members at a fraction of the new cost.



Outside of local fundraising events we raise funds for specific projects through grants. This year we received 10 grants including:

## Newsletter – Daisie Rich Trust



Our quarterly newsletter has grown from strength to strength with the help of the Daisie Rich Trust. This publication is written by members for members. It includes member questions which we then turn into articles to share to everyone.

We circulate this not only to individual members but also to 39 Island Wide organisation from whom we receive such positive feedback, together with every Island Optician and our eye department St Marys Hospital.

IMAGE DESCRIPTION  
Newsletter front page Winter  
2025

**Sporting grants – Ann Reynold Trust** was used to support our swimming and golf groups, inflationary rises are so high they cannot be borne by member, grants are used to give time for attendee numbers to grow.

**Millbrooke House** – last year our drive was re-laid with a grant from B&Q. This year a grant from **Screw Fix** and work through the **Prison Probation** scheme has seen a huge facelift to the whole building. In the last month of the year, we received a grant from the nationwide **Garden Scheme** to build a sensory garden which will take place next year. Finally, we also obtained a grant from the **Wolfson Foundation** to install an internal partition wall to make the downstairs a more flexible space in 2025/2026.



IMAGE DESCRIPTION  
Millbrooke House



We received two further grants to support our activities. **HIWCF** grant to support our Thursday Mix and Mingle group where ladies and gentlemen gather each week for craft activities, book readings, days out, quizzes and sing alongs. This activity is a vital group as we offer door to door transport and many of our members are unable to leave their home without it.



**IMAGE DESCRIPTION**  
Members enjoying a themed activity

The second grant was from **Wight Aid** which allowed us to supply CD & USB players and Alexa devices to give members access to listen to our own Alexa skill which includes our weekly talking newspaper, quarterly newsletter and further we install RNIB audio books.



**IMAGE DESCRIPTION**  
A front and back picture of hat design on a blue t-shirt with Sight for Wight Hat and Sunglasses Day 2025, KS1 Hat Winner on the back

**Education Program** – Our final grant support came from **Tesco Stronger starts** to support our schools' program. This interactive activity-based program teaches Island primary school children about avoidable sight loss and good eye health.

This year, not only did we celebrate Summer Solstice with a new video to introduce the concept of the program, but we also ran a design your own T Shirt and Hat competition. The winners received a T-shirt with their design on.

**Our Services** – The number of members using our services have, without exception, increased this year. All staff are fully trained in so many aspects of the reality of living with Sight and / or Hearing Loss.



Having visually and hearing-impaired staff and board members ensures we stay focused on our members' needs, desires and wishes.

The collage features the following items:

- Audio Books:** A photograph of a bookshelf.
- IT Accessibility:** A person using a laptop with a screen reader.
- Striders:** A group of people walking outdoors.
- Yoga:** A silhouette of a person in a yoga pose.
- Swimming:** A person swimming underwater.
- Book Group:** A person wearing headphones next to a stack of books.
- Walk and Talk:** A person walking on a path with a dog.
- Tandem Biking:** Two people riding a tandem bicycle.
- Mix and Mingle:** A group of people sitting around a table.
- Talking News:** A person sitting at a desk with a microphone.
- Education Programme:** A person teaching a group of children.
- Alexa:** A smart speaker displaying weather information.
- Tennis:** A silhouette of a person playing tennis.
- Godshill Coffee Morning:** A group of people sitting at a table.
- Eye on Social:** A group of people sitting in a room.
- Golf:** A group of people standing on a golf course.
- Newsletter:** A cover of a newsletter titled "Spring 2024".
- QR Codes:** A QR code with the text "SCAN & LISTEN".
- Befriending:** A person talking on a mobile phone.

Having lived with 88% congenital sight loss and with acquired progressive hearing loss, I naturally use my own “living” experience, but I know every single person, regardless of whether or not they are living with sight loss, is an individual and deserves to be treated as one. A huge thank you for the most fulling seven years of my carer.

**Lisa Hollyhead - Chief Executive Officer**

*Lisa Hollyhead*



## Trustees' Report – A Strategic Approach

The Trustees are pleased to present their Annual Directors' Report, together with the financial statements of The Isle of Wight Society for the Blind for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

At the forefront of all we do is talking to our members to alter the range and breadth of our services to meet their real needs, desires and wishes. It is a strong belief of the Trustees that collaborating with the wider community will produce the best results for our members, our CEO's engagement both locally and nationally, with her work with other organisations helps to ensure this.

We should all play to our strengths and allow others to fulfil our weaker areas and always treat people as the unique individuals —they are.

### OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR MEMBERS

- Strive to empower our members, providing them with the best possible services.
- Provide professional, expert support, guidance and skills.
- Communicate with a unified voice ensuring members receive consistent messages in their preferred format.
- Be honest and transparent.

To ensure our financial sustainability, we have engaged with grant funders, continued a rigorous review, and monitored the Charity's reserves, ensuring their low-medium risk strategy is adhered to.

We wish to thank each and every member of staff, volunteers, supporters and, most importantly, charity members for their support, help and honest feedback on services.



**Sue Bungey - Chair of Trustees**



## THE WHOLE TEAM

We are here to help people from their diagnosis until they reach a point where they can live **Safely, Independently and Confidently**. There is no minimum level of sight loss anyone needs to access our service, no referral form, no tests, or medicals, just a **Yes, I would like to join**.

Firmly embedded into the philosophy of Sight for Wight is our strategic aim namely ***to invest in our team of staff, Trustees volunteers and members for the long-term benefit to everyone involved.***

**Lisa Hollyhead - CEO**



We all have our roles, but everyone in our team knows what everyone else does; this ensures members get consistent and responsive communication and the training undergone in the year really has meant that our advice is clear, current, and correct.

The staff all understand that, without the feedback of members and the tireless support of volunteers, we simply could not offer the level and diverse nature of support and activities that we do, therefore every piece of feedback and every minute a volunteer gives is very much appreciated.



## **VOLUNTEERS – OUR TRUSTEES**

Sight for Wight's team of Trustees worked tirelessly attending board meetings, supporting individual staff on specific projects, advising on lobbying, making new introductions and both raising awareness and vital funds.

The Board includes Two Trustees who are Severely Sight Impaired, one who is Partially Sighted, one who is Deaf and one who recovered from a complete loss of Sight. But all the Board have a personal experience of the day-to-day reality of living with a sensory impairment through a close family member or friend giving true empathy towards our members.

## **VOLUNTEERS – OUR VOLUNTEERS**

With such a small team of staff here at Sight for Wight, we heavily rely on our wonderful Volunteers who donate so much time and support to us in many ways. Sight for Wight are very fortunate to have such a wonderful, loyal group of volunteers who assist with all the activities, events and



**IMAGE DESCRIPTION**  
Sight for Wight stall at Volunteers event

fundraising with provide here.

During the year we have recruited several new volunteers which is always lovely and I hope we make them feel very welcome and part of Sight for Wight team, new volunteers always are a great sign that we are reaching out to the Isle of Wight and we are now recognised as a leading charity.



**IMAGE DESCRIPTION**  
Volunteers attending a Volunteer Party



Whilst we sadly have to say goodbye to people, we always celebrate the work they have done for us and thank all volunteers for their continued help and support. Equally, we welcome new people who bring fresh ideas and experiences.

Our volunteer numbers rose from 117 to 142 by the year end, every person giving so much to us. Quarterly update / social meetings are held to keep Volunteers up to date with two afternoon teas for socialising and as a **THANK YOU**.

**Susan Earley – Volunteer Manager**

## **MEMBERS**

Serving our members is at the forefront of everything we do; it is why we are here. So, let us celebrate our members by looking firstly at activities they have taken part in and some of their own experiences.

Our number of weekly activities has grown steadily throughout the year as have the number of people attending them.



Our fourth Open Day with equipment advice and support for both Hearing and Sight Loss



“A real sense of freedom,”  
one member’s view on our  
swimming

“Meeting my  
peers has been  
life changing”  
Coffee morning  
visitor



Walk and Talk for those  
looking for a shorter  
walk than our Striders  
Group



Audio Book Club, Golf  
and Yoga

Tandem bike ride,  
“I travelled at  
speed it was truly  
amazing”



Sailing days and  
Motorboat  
excursions



And to end 2024  
Mulled Wine and  
Mince Pies



Days Out including celebrating the King's Coronation, Theatre Trip, Christmas meal and our Monthly Eye On Socials



Mix and Mingle Group

### MEMBER SUPPORT OFFICER

The Board of Trustees have continued to offer reserves to fund our Member Support Officer for the fifth year. Gaining funding for a generic position is proving challenging but this role was clearly needed as someone who can just visit members in their homes and help with whatever one-to-one support they need.

This year she has made 142 home visits offering help where and when it is needed. The range of requests was very varied from finding someone to help them move, keeping track of items as they were packed. to more standard form filling and purchasing online items.



## **NEWSLETTER**

As the most used way we communicate with our members, our newsletter continues to go from strength to strength. We have continued the MEMBER QUESTIONS feature; this provides articles on any item a member has asked about. This added to our other regular features including:

- All activities groups and social meetings
- A volunteer story and a member story
- Tips from members for daily living hacks and IT support
- Update from every member of staff
- Chris' Crackers
- Access Cards - GDPR - AI - Glaucoma - Unclaimed Pension Credit - PIP, how it works - Electric Buses –Technology grants

The reach of the publication is now over 950 for each newsletter.

## **LOBBY FOR THE VOICE OF OUR MEMBERS**

One of our core aims is to ensure, as much as we can, that the needs of our members are taken into account in everyday life.

Due to our previous successes and our passion for this, our CEO has been selected to sit alongside Visionary and the RNIB on a national campaigning board tackling the needs of our members both locally and nationally. This board aims to give information to local charities to help with local campaigns whilst sharing local knowledge outwards to other charities. The groups have tackled the first agenda item, the desperate state of the lack of qualified Vision Rehabilitation Specialists and are now in the midst of looking at a new qualification to recognise the work of the current assessor qualified by experience, we are all watching this space with anticipation.



Above are pictures of our members enjoying many activities, some of which we were nominated for awards this year. For our previous work with Hampshire Police on the Visual Impairment Protocol we were shortlisted down to the three finalists. For our work with members on equality diversity and inclusion we were shortlisted and won the



Hampshire and Isle of Wight Action award. For the best in business Isle of Wight Radion awards we were again shortlisted and finally for the most prestigious Isle of Wight awards, the Island Business Awards we were short listed and won the Community Service award.





## WIGHT SENSE

The service grew exponentially during the year with all Key Performance Indicators being met and exceeded with ease. Feedback from the clients clearly demonstrates that the service is working and appreciated; 92% of people said their needs were met for Hearing and Sight Loss clients and 95% for Dual Sense / DeafBlind clients.



The team of assessors visit people in their homes and talk to them as individual people with their own needs, expectations, and life experiences. Whilst a physical Care Act Assessment must be completed for all the clients to ensure eligibility, the way that the visits actually work in reality is a relaxed conversation.

Our assessors get to know each person and then put a plan in place to help them live safely, confidently, and independently by offering training, equipment, and referrals to other organisations. Goals, aims and targets are agreed mutually and a plan to achieve them is set.

Our Apprentice Vision Rehabilitation Specialist, who began her course in May 2024, has completed her first year with flying colours and is now teaching indoor Cane training and a full range of daily living skills. Emma has introduced a varied, well researched, set of kitchen aids and completed demonstrations at various events.

This year saw the introduction of beer matts and bookmarks which we circulated out into the community to reach people who may not have heard of the service before. This has been a great success.

The service has been established with an island wide reputation for an empathetic but efficient service.

*Lisa Hollyhead*

**Lisa Hollyhead - Chief Executive Officer**





## LEVEL OF SIGHT LOSS

### The Real Level of Sight Loss on the Island

Broken Down as	Total Number of Residents	Residents living with failing sight	%
Aged 0 - 17	23,393	50	0.21%
Aged 18 - 64	75,980	990	1.30%
Aged 65 - 74	21,637	1,400	6.47%
Aged 75 - 84	14,050	2,150	15.30%
Aged over 85	5,339	2,280	42.70%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>140,400</b>	<b>6,870</b>	

- Between the last two Censuses, the median age of the Isle of Wight increased by five years, from 46 to 51 years of age.
- This area had the joint second-highest average (median) age in the Southeast (alongside New Forest and behind Rother) and a higher average (median) age than England (40 years).
- The median age is the age of the person in the middle of the group, meaning that one half of the group is younger than that person and the other half is older.
- The number of people aged 65 to 74 years rose by around 4,600 (an increase of 26.7%), while the number of residents between 35 and 49 years fell by just under 5,100 (18.8% decrease).

In summary the aging population of the Isle of Wight continues to rise and with it comes Age related Sight and Hearing loss. We expect service demands to continue to rise between 4% and 6% per year as they have done since 2020.



## FINANCIAL REVIEW

### FUNDRAISING

The remit of the CEO is to consider the overall **fundraising** policy and strategy, and to oversee all fundraising activities. This year has seen our Fundraising Board and Fundraising Committee meet quarterly.

Our Fundraising Board includes the CEO, three Trustees and the volunteers' manager, they meet to look at the overall budget for the year and plan larger events. Grants form a large part of the strategy.

Our Fundraising Committee includes one Trustee, the volunteers' manager, and a selection of "hands on volunteers." They organise local, Island based, fund and awareness raising events.

### Local Island Shows

We attend local shows to not only raise funds but equally importantly to raise awareness. This year we attended, Isle of Wight Festival, IW Vintage Motorbike Show, Bembridge Street Fayre, and Chillerton Scarecrow Festival.



**IMAGE DESCRIPTION**  
Group of Volunteers under Gazebo with stand at Isle of Wight Day



**IMAGE DESCRIPTION**  
Blind Human Fruit Machine ready for action at Isle of Wight Festival with 4 members of staff



## Island Carnival -



We were delighted to return to Newport Carnival this year as it had been cancelled due to ill weather last year, we achieved third place for our display of all the activities we offer our members.

**IMAGE DESCRIPTION** Two volunteers holding the trophy and third place certificate



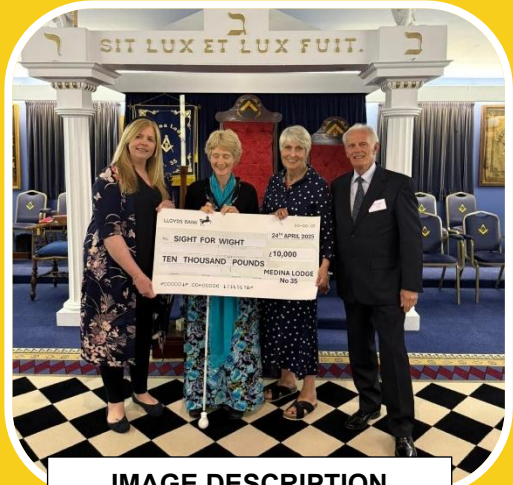
We attended Chillerton Scarecrow competition with our new 'Hootie' the Owl made from recycled glasses by Bridget one of our Trustees. We came 14<sup>th</sup> out of 115 scarecrows and Hootie later visited the Isle of Wight Festival to pose with passers by receiving hundreds of Social Media hits. We raised £1,693 from attending festivals and shows.

**IMAGE DESCRIPTION** Scarecrow made from a bin covered up recycled glasses

**Charity of the Year** We have also been chosen as various organisations' Charity of the Year. Funds raised through these very generous donations also again raised awareness of the charity amongst new groups. We always attend a celebration event and give a talk on how funds will be used. Special thanks to Vintage Motorbike Club Cowes Masonic Lodge TWG and WI.



**IMAGE DESCRIPTION** Lisa with Members of Towns Women's Guild Sandown



**IMAGE DESCRIPTION** Trustees at Cowes Masonic Lodge receiving cheque



## Annual Short Story Writing Competition

Started some 15 years ago by Sight for Wight patrons, RC Bridgestock, international crime writing authors, the theme this year was “A funny thing happened when.” Entries came flooding in and the awards ceremony announced category winners. We raised £1,037.

### IMAGE DESCRIPTION

Poster advertising the short story writing competition with Celebrity readers announced Chesney Hawkes, Steve Power, Selma Ross, and RC Bridgestock Richard Cadell



**Island Organisations** - We have also received support from other local business running carol concerts, quizzes, and raffles on our behalf. These events are always attended by volunteers and staff again raising awareness. Special thank to **Solent Singers, Gallybaggers, The Waverley, The Taveners, The Crown, Newclose Cricket Club** and **Tesco** who ran a book stall in aid of us. Finally, a huge thank you to the **Open Studios** who showcase Local Island artists and invited us to offer refreshments on four days of exhibitions. We raised £3,318 including £763 from Open Studios.



**IMAGE DESCRIPTION**  
Trustees at Open Studios

## MEMBER LED FUNDRAISING

For our fundraising we always try to involve our members as much as possible. This year’s Member Led fundraising events included:

**KNITTING** This project was twofold: Firstly, to produce the handmade knitted items.



**IMAGE DESCRIPTION**  
Knitted hedgehogs sitting on a hovercraft



Secondly, equally important, to remind members that just because their sight is failing, they can knit just as well and quickly as they ever have with a few minor changes to their set up. **We raised £3,050.**



**IMAGE DESCRIPTION**  
Volunteers at ASDA

Throughout the year our members volunteer for various **bucket collections** made possible by TESCO and ASDA allowing us to attend and other organisations holding our collecting shards.

We held our main Christmas raffle in December raising £1,416 with smaller Easter raffles raising a further £192. In total we raised £2,315.



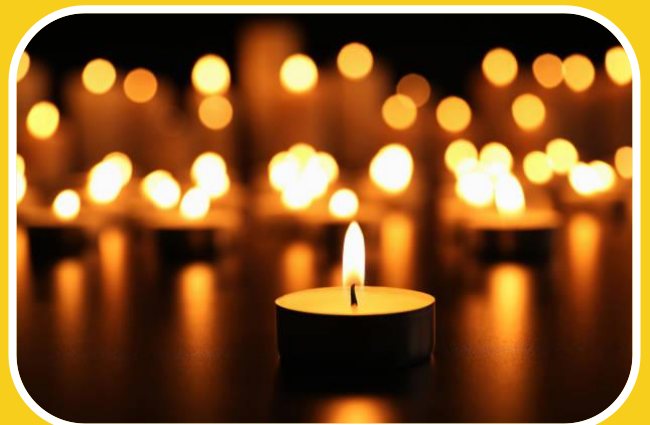
Our **100 Club** is just £2 per month to stand a chance of winning up to £80.

Numbers continued to grow throughout the year but there are some numbers left if you would like to join. This year we raised **just over £1,000.**

We are very lucky to live on such a beautiful Island, and we have managed to capture the hearts of many of its residents this year collecting **£5,048** in donations from individuals.

## In Loving Memory

When one of our members or volunteers passes, we attend the celebration of their life whenever possible to say our farewells. Sadly, there have been a few this year but it is always good to remember so many happy memories. This year in addition we were remembered in lieu of flowers by several people, thank you.





## Final Bequests

Finally, but by no means least, we want to thank those who have chosen to remember us in their **final Will**. All legacies are extremely valuable, and we have thanked each and every family for their loved one's bequests. These gifts bring us such joy because it means we truly have helped that person enough for them to think we are a worthy recipient of their life's work. Thank you.

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The Isle of Wight Society for the Blind's total income for the year stood at £314,760 (2024 £293,607). Both years includes income from the Wight Sense contract to the value of £195,000. After total expenditure of £337,168 (2024: £319,756) and gain on investments of £6,525 (2024 £7,681) the deficit for the year amounted to £(15,882) (2024: £(18,466)).

## Total Funds and Reserves

<b>Total Funds per Accounts</b>	701,183
Fixed Assets	(491,749)
<b>General Funds</b>	<b>£209,434</b>
<b>Designated Funds</b>	
Millbrooke House maintenance	(27,000)
Hello Everyone, QR Codes	(24,500)
Renovation of purchased Retail unit	(17,000)
2020 Education Outreach Program	(12,000)
<b>Free reserves</b>	<b>£128,934</b>

Fixed assets are tied up in Millbrooke House, 57 Pyle Street and equipment that we need to deliver our services and activities. Funds



are designated to ensure that there is adequate contingency in respect of both Millbrooke House and 57 Pyle Street maintenance. £128,934 equates to seven months working capital based on the next budget.

The Trustees have set aside the free reserves necessary for day-to-day working capital and to cover potential identifiable financial risks in accordance with the Charity Commission's recommendations and guidance.

## **Investment Policy**

The performance of the investment portfolio is regularly reviewed by the Trustees and during the year regained some value after previous losses. The Trustees have confirmed to the investment manager their inexperience in financial markets and therefore given discretion to manage the portfolio within an agreed risk profile. The investment manager submits quarterly progress reports and performance is reviewed accordingly.

It holds designated funds not immediately required, in the expectation of providing a better return than that available from bank or savings accounts. The objective is to produce capital growth. Within the policy remit, the Isle of Wight Society for the Blind has imposed an ethical restriction not to directly invest in any company, if a major part of their business could adversely affect the lives of people living with a Visual Impairment.

Taking account of a funds withdrawal of £20,000 the market value of the portfolio as of 31 March 2025 was £125,173 (2024: £138,650).

## **PENSION FUND**

The Charity runs its own NEST pension scheme for current employees for which all contributions are up-to-date and paid.

**Lisa Hollyhead - CEO**

*Lisa Hollyhead*



## TRADING COMPANY

### Our Trading Company Millbrooke Enterprises CIC

Millbrooke Enterprises CIC, established in 2015, currently generates revenue from Dress for Less, our charity boutique dress agency from 57 Pyle Street, Newport.

The new shop is now settling down with a different clientele buying fewer, higher value items due to the smaller trading space. However, the current cost of living crisis has taken its toll on sales and whilst the shop generated a positive cash flow into the Charity, Directors are very mindful of sales and are monitoring the performance of the shop carefully.



The shop sells pre-loved immaculate ladies clothing and accessories by taking in items to sell on client's behalf on a 50/50 basis. All items are inspected for their style, quality, and condition before being put out for sale ensuring every customer receives a perfect garment.

The Trustees are very aware that any retail business must have an online presence to survive, and their new website opened on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 as well as continued Facebook and eBay sales.

Dress for Less held a fashion event on the 29<sup>th</sup> March raising over £2,000, many new customers were gained, and the increased sales are being seen in the early 2026 year.

Millbrooke Enterprises CIC, again, generated an excess of income over expenditure during the financial year ended 31 March 2025 noting that all salary costs, employed by Sight for Wight, undertaking work on behalf of Dress for Less are recovered.

**Debbie Durbridge Retail Manager**

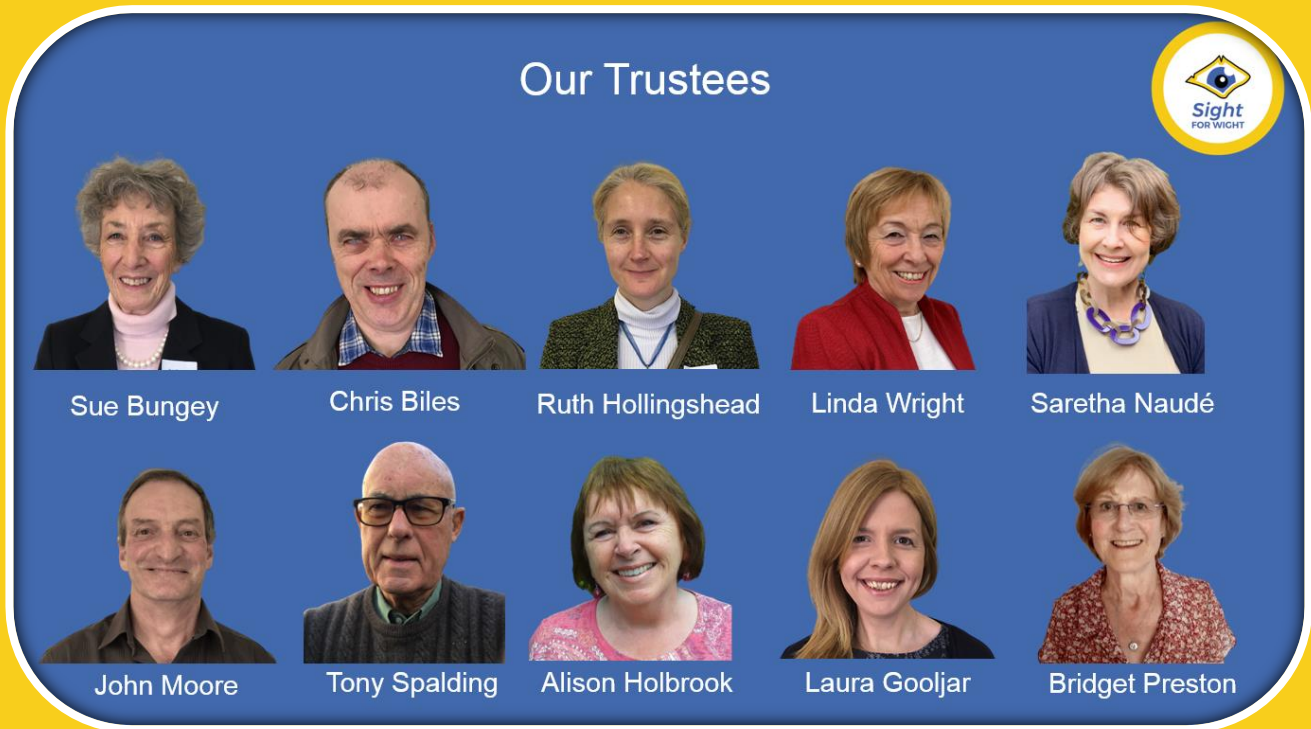




# Structure, Governance and Management

## OUR TRUSTEES, ADVISORS AND MANAGEMENT

Our Board of ten trustees is made up as follows:



### Registered Office

Millbrooke House, 137 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, PO30 1DD

**Company / Charity registration number 6240404 / 1149415**

**Accountants and Independent Examiner - Morris Crocker**

Station House, 50 North Street, Havant, Hants PO9 1QU

**Bankers - Co-operative Bank PLC**

PO Box 101, 1 Bolton Street, Manchester, M60 4EP

**Investment Managers - Charles Stanley and Co. Ltd**

Vadatech House, Hounsdown Business Park Southampton SO40 9LR

**Chief Executive Officer - Lisa Hollyhead F.C.A. BA(Hons)**



## Our Governance

**The Charity's objects** ("the Objects") are the support of (i) blind and partially sighted persons and (ii) persons with other sensory loss, resident in the Isle of Wight in such ways as the Directors from time to time think fit and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing in the following ways:

- (a) the provision of facilities for education, recreation, training, and employment.
- (b) the promotion of the wellbeing of such persons including the financial assistance of those in need.
- (c) in promoting the awareness of the needs of such persons amongst the general public.

The Isle of Wight Society for the Blind is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The liability of each Guarantor Member in the event of winding up is limited to £10. The Trustees are Guarantor Members of the Charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no legal beneficial interest in the Charity.

The Directors of the charitable company are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees. New Trustees are recruited through an open recruitment process, against a role description / skills matrix to ensure they have the skills to undertake their role.

Trustees nominate the Chair as set out in the merged Memorandum and Articles of Association. Trustees have the power to co-opt further members to fill specialist roles or to appoint to fill vacancies that occur between Annual General Meetings.

Trustees are appointed for three years and may stand for re-election by all Guarantor Members at the AGM and serve for a further three years



before seeking re-election. The Board of Trustees must number at least seven and is not subject to any maximum. Between April 2024 and March 2025, it met formally four times in addition to the AGM held in July 2024. All meetings were quorate.

## **Trustee Induction and Training**

New Trustees have an induction programme to ensure familiarity with Charity's services and policies. This includes:

- Briefing on legal obligations under Charity and Company Law
- Charity Commission Guidance on governance
- Memorandum and Articles of Association
- Induction training on Living Well with Sight Loss
- Induction training on how to approach our members
- Meeting with the CEO to cover the Charity services and strategy
- Introduction to all staff after meetings with an informal lunch.

Trustees are offered opportunities to enable them to develop in their governance role through internal and external training events. An Annual Skills audit review is undertaken and Trustee personal qualities review, and vacant Trustees positions are then recruited for.

The Board of Trustees complete an annual review of the CEO along with the Chair. Pre-written questions are used to ensure all human resources; strategic and tactical points are covered. Further the effectiveness of the board is also reviewed by the Vice Chair, independent of the Chair to ensure everyone the effectiveness of the Chair is independently reviewed.

**Delegation** - The Trustees delegate the day-to-day management, the development of strategy and overall leadership of the Charity to the CEO. To facilitate effective operations, the CEO has delegated authority, within the terms approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance and employment.



**Related Parties** - None of the Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the Charity. They give their time freely. Any connection between Trustee or senior personnel of the Charity and a related party must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees. In the current year, no such related party transactions were reported. Conflicts of interest are monitored through a record of interests / declarations at each Trustee meeting.

**Principle Risks** - The Trustees reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and developed a risk register which is reviewed annually with appropriate, systems and procedures being established to mitigate the risks the Charity faces.

The risk management process itself is periodically reviewed to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the Charity. Risks are minimised by the implementation of internal controls with procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. External risks to the decline in donations received through legacies have led to diversify income generation.

**Diversity of the Board** Having a range of perspectives and living experiences on the board, helps the board to remain innovative, relatable, and agile to adapt to changing environments. A diverse board contains a broader mix of skills, knowledge and experience which should give it greater flexibility to overcome challenges. With the board, having already committed to building inclusive cultures and practices, follows Equality, Inclusion and Diversity principles.

The Trustees thank every supporter, volunteer, staff member and every person involved in the Charity, leading the Isle of Wight's oldest Charity is nothing less than a privilege.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S.P. Bungey".

**Chairman Sue Bungey**



## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF ISLE OF WIGHT SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 34 to 47.

#### **Responsibilities and Basis of Report**

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

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

#### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

Since your Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountant, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the 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.

**Paul Underwood FCCA – Director**

Dated: 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

For and on behalf of Morris Crocker, Station House, 50 North Street, Havant, PO9 1QU



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		Year to 31 March 2025	Year to 31 March 2024
		£	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>			
Incoming resources from generated funds	2	36,422	28,212
Voluntary income			
Activities for generating funds	3	19,745	21,385
Fundraising Income			
Income from charitable activities	6	252,594	240,047
Investment income	5	6,000	3,938
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>314,760</u>	<u>293,607</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Costs of generating funds	7	43,605	45,870
Fundraising costs			
Charitable Activities	8	293,563	273,886
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>337,168</u>	<u>319,756</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		(22,407)	(26,149)
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>			
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		6,525	7,681
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	18	<u>(15,882)</u>	<u>(18,466)</u>
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2024		<u>717,065</u>	<u>735,532</u>
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2025		<u>701,183</u>	<u>717,065</u>

The notes on pages 37 to 47 part of these accounts



## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

For the financial year in question, the company was entitled to exemption under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

	Notes	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible asset	13	491,749	492,617
Fixed asset investments	14	125,174	138,649
Investments	15	1	1
		<b>616,924</b>	<b>631,267</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stock		1,168	1,340
Debtors	16	62,677	75,612
Cash at bank and in hand		37,032	52,368
		100,877	129,320
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Amount falling due in less than one year	17	(16,618)	(43,522)
<b>Net current assets</b>		84,259	85,798
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>701,183</b>	<b>717,065</b>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
<b>Unrestricted</b>			
General funds	18	620,683	636,565
Designated funds	18	80,500	80,500
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>		701,183	717,065
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>701,183</b>	<b>717,065</b>



## **BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED) AS AT 31 MARCH 2025**

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The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which 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 company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit and loss 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 company.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

*S.P. Bungey*

.....

Sue Bungey (Chairman)

The notes on pages 37 to 47 part of these accounts



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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### 1. Summary of significant accounting policies

#### (a) General information and basis of preparation

Isle of Wight Society for the Blind is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 29 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are described on page 30.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the Charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The charity also manages the assets held within an unincorporated charity (registered number 1149415), the assets of which were the subject of a scheme of management by the Charity Commission. The assets of that charity were amalgamated in 2013 with the assets of this Charitable company, and are reported as one entity in these accounts.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

#### (b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors, or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.



## **NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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### **(c) Income recognition**

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the Charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained, then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity, and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable; it can be measured reliably, and the Charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity. For example, the amount the Charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

Where practicable, gifts in kind donated for distribution to the beneficiaries of the Charity are included in stock and donations in the financial statements upon receipt. If it is impracticable to assess the fair value at receipt or if the costs to undertake such a valuation outweigh any benefits, then the fair value is recognised as a component of donations when it is distributed, and an equivalent amount recognised as charitable expenditure.

Fixed asset gifts in kind are recognised when receivable and are included at fair value. They are not deferred over the life of the asset.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Income from grants is recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met; it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met, then these amounts are deferred.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and property. It includes dividends, interest, and rent. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend and rent income is recognised as the charity's right to receive payment is established.



## **NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

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Other income includes the conversion of endowment funds into income which arises when capital funds are released to an income fund from expendable endowments or when a charity has authority to adopt a total return approach to its permanent endowment fund. It also includes other income such as gains on disposals of tangible fixed assets. Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

### **d) Expenditure recognition**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties; it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes events.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes lettings and functions, car parking, grounds costs, house preservation, and grants; and
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

### **(e) Support costs allocation**

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Premises and other overheads have been allocated in a similar basis.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 9 to these accounts.

### **(f) Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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Freehold property	2% straight line
Fixtures and Fittings	10%, 15% and 25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

The Charity's assets consist of land and property originally conveyed by gift to the Local Authority in 1929 and were passed to this charity by a scheme of management. The Grounds are managed in permanent endowment, and these assets are held at nil cost.

### **g) Investment properties**

Investment properties for which fair value can be measured reliably without undue cost or effort are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA. The Lodge property is held with a view to being re-let at market rent, and is included at market value with no amortisation.

### **(h) Investments**

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Current asset investments are short-term highly liquid investments and are held at fair value. These include cash on deposit and cash equivalents with a maturity of less than one year.

### **(i) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year**

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

### **(j) Impairment**

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

### **(k) Employee benefits**

When employees have rendered service to the Charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service. The Charity operates a defined contribution plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

### **(l) Tax**

The Charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### (m) Going concern

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. With the stated free reserves at the year-end of £128,934 (2024 - £143,949), the Trustees are confident that it remains appropriate to prepare financial statements on a going concern basis.

### (n) Cash flow statement

The Charitbale Company has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No. 1 from producing a cash flow statement.

### (o) Trading subsidiary

The accounts are not consolidated but a summary of the trading company figures are in note 4.

## 2. Voluntary income

	Total Funds Year to 31 March 2025 £	Total Funds Year to 31 March 2024 £
Gifts and donations	23,848	5,907
Legacies (see below)	9,982	21,000
Collecting boxes	1,024	850
Donation from trading subsidiary	1,568	455
	<b>£36,422</b>	<b>£28,212</b>

### Legacies received included in the above:

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
Noreen Gertrude Charles	8,982	
Elizabeth Shelton	1,000	
Mrs Gladys Asprey		20,000
Mr Walter Wynn Evans		1,000
	<b>£9,982</b>	<b>£21,000</b>

## 3. Activities for generating funds

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
Fundraising events	8,466	8,458
Room hire	1,340	1,320
Other income	9,938	11,607
	<b>£19,745</b>	<b>£21,385</b>



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 4. Subsidiary Trading Company

The Charity also has a trading subsidiary company, which is itself limited by guarantee, but which operates functions within the House for the Charity. The accounts are not consolidated but reflect the monies due from the profits of the trading company. A summary of the trading results of the company is set out below:

	Year to 31 March 2025	Year to 31 March 2024
<b>Summary Profit and loss</b>		
Turnover	64,543	67,276
Costs	(62,974)	(66,821)
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>£1,569</b>	<b>£455</b>
<b>Summary of Reserves</b>	<b>31 March 2025</b>	<b>31 March 2024</b>
Accumulated profits brought forward	1	1
Fixed Assets	972	1,295
Profit for the year	1,569	455
Donated surplus to the charity	(1,569)	(455)
Accumulated profits carried forward	<b>£973</b>	<b>£1,296</b>
<b>5 Investment Income</b>	<b>Year to 31 March 2025</b>	<b>Year to 31 March 2024</b>
Investment Income	-	938
Income from Property	6,000	3,000
	<b>£6,000</b>	<b>£3,938</b>
<b>6. Income from Charitable Activities</b>	<b>Year to 31 March 2025</b>	<b>Year to 31 March 2024</b>
Income from brailing	859	963
Sensory Support Rehabilitation	195,000	195,000
Income from aids and equipment	3,521	1,099
Income from activities	53,214	59,151
	<b>£252,594</b>	<b>£256,213</b>

## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Year to 31 March 2025	Year to 31 March 2024
<b>7. Fundraising costs</b>		
Fundraising costs	2,920	4,097
Staff costs	20,852	20,970
Allocation of support costs	19,833	20,803
	<b>£43,605</b>	<b>£45,870</b>
<b>8. Charitable activities costs</b>		
Charitable activities costs	58,782	47,916
Staff costs	188,504	177,680
Allocation of support costs	46,277	48,290
	<b>£293,563</b>	<b>£273,886</b>
<b>9. Support and Governance costs</b>		
Staff costs	16,748	15,832
Premises	16,717	19,536
Insurance	5,301	4,784
Management	11,734	13,377
Depreciation	13,518	13,955
	<b>£64,018</b>	<b>£67,484</b>
Governance		
Independent examiners remuneration	1,800	1,800
Accountancy and support	292	60
	<b>£66,110</b>	<b>£69,344</b>
<b>Allocation of Support and Governance costs:</b>		
Fundraising Costs	19,833	20,803
Charitable activities Costs	46,277	48,541
	<b>£66,110</b>	<b>£69,344</b>

The allocation of support and governance costs are pro-rata based on the expenditure of each cost heading to the overall expenditure in the year. Non-support staff costs have been allocated directly, and as a result the comparative has been amended for comparability



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 10. Net incoming/(outgoing) resources

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	Year to 31 March 2025 £	Year to 31 March 2024 £
Independent examiners fee	£1,800	£1,800
Depreciation – owned assets	<u>£13,518</u>	<u>£13,955</u>

### 11. Trustees' remuneration, benefits, and expenses

There were no trustees that received any remuneration for their services, and expenses were reimbursed during the year of £Nil (2024 - £Nil).

### 12. Staff costs Year to Year

	Year to 31 March 2025 £	Year to 31 March 2024 £
Wages and salaries	237,205	223,445
Employers pension costs	3,943	3,670
Social security costs	12,511	15,505
	<u>£253,659</u>	<u>£242,620</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000. The average monthly number of employees was 16 (2024: 17) with full time equivalent of 9.5 (2024 9.9)

### 13. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Property £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Motor Vehicle £	Total £
Cost at 1 April 2024	556,357	147,377	19,133	722,866
Additions	-	-	12,650	12,650
<b>As at 31 March 2025</b>	<u>556,357</u>	<u>147,377</u>	<u>31,783</u>	<u>735,516</u>
Depreciation at 1 April 2024	75,944	140,476	13,829	230,249
Charge for the period	11,127	1,065	1,326	13,518
<b>At 31 March 2025</b>	<u>87,071</u>	<u>141,541</u>	<u>15,155</u>	<u>243,767</u>
<b>Net Book Value at 31 March 2025</b>	<u>£469,286</u>	<u>£5,836</u>	<u>£16,627</u>	<u>£491,749</u>
<b>Net Book Value at 31 March 2024</b>	<u>£480,413</u>	<u>£6,901</u>	<u>£5,304</u>	<u>£492,617</u>

The original cost of the premises was £572,293 and has been subject to impairments to current market value in 2012 and 2015.

## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£	£
<b>14. Fixed asset investments</b>		
Market value at 1 April 2023	121,605	129,099
Additions – see below	7,152	9,659
Disposals – see below	(13,795)	(22,081)
Change in value of investments	2,552	4,928
Market value investments at 31 March 2023	<u>£117,514</u>	<u>£121,605</u>
Notional Accrued Interest	85	85
Cash funds, held by investment managers	£7,573	£16,959
Total investment portfolio	<u>£125,172</u>	<u>£138,649</u>

### Purchases

T. Rowe Price Funds SICAV

#### Net Costs

7,152

£7,152

### Disposals

iShares II PLC

Lowland Investment Company PLC

#### Net Proceeds

5,191

8,604

£13,795

The following individual investments outlined above represent more than 5% of the portfolio's total market value:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Schroder Investment Fund Co, Scroder Strategic Credit L Dis	10.69%	10.88%
Blackrock Continental Eurpn Inc FD	7.92%	7.99%
Artemis Global Income Fund I Dis	17.86%	16.09%
Temple Bar Investment Trust	11.72%	9.89%
Rathbone Ethical Bond Fund	6.87%	7.14%
Lowland Investment Co	0.00%	6.99%
Blackrock Sust American Inc Tst Plc	5.54%	5.72%
Polar Capital Technology Trust Plc	6.20%	6.66%



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£	£
<b>15 Investment in subsidiary company</b>		
Investment in subsidiary company	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

The Charity owns the entire issued share capital consisting of 1 ordinary share of £1 of the trading subsidiary, Millbrooke Enterprise CEC. Millbrooke Enterprises CIC was incorporated on 20 February 2016 and trades in support of the Isle of Wight Society for the Blind.

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£	£
<b>16. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	53,270	53,388
Amounts owing from trading subsidiary company	6,716	19,224
Other debtors and prepayments	2,691	3,000
	<u>£62,677</u>	<u>£75,612</u>

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£	£
<b>17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		
Trade creditors	942	3,773
Taxation and social security	13,644	21,810
Other creditors and accruals	2,032	17,939
	<u>£16,618</u>	<u>£43,522</u>

	At 01/04/2024	Movement in funds	Between Funds	At 31/03/2025
	£	£	£	£
<b>18. Movement in funds</b>				
<b>Designated funds</b>				
Maintenance (Millbrooke House)	27,000			27,000
Retail Unit	24,500			24,500
Hello, Everyone, QR Code campaign	17,000			17,000
2020 education programme	12,000			12,000
	<u>80,500</u>	-	-	<u>80,500</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>	-			-
<b>General unrestricted funds</b>	636,565	(15,882)		620,683
	<u>£717,065</u>	<u>£(15,882)</u>	£-	<u>£701,183</u>



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### 19. Related Party Transactions

The charity is under the control of the Trustees. During the year, the Charity's held a working capital loan with the trading company with expenses paid by the Charity for and on behalf of the trading company of £30,173 (2024 £30,599). Millbrooke Enterprises CIC made a distribution in the period to the parent charity of £1,569 (2024: £455) and the balance outstanding at the year end was £6,716 (2024: £19,224.)

### 20. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities

In line with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice, presented below is the full comparative Statement of Financial Activities

	Year to 31 March 2024
	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>	
Incoming resources from generated funds - Voluntary income	28,212
Activities for generating funds - Fundraising Income	21,410
Income from charitable activities	240,047
Investment income	3,938
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>293,607</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>	
Costs of generating funds - Fundraising costs	45,870
Charitable Activities	273,886
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>319,756</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	(26,149)
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses) – Gains/(losses) on investment assets</b>	7,681
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<u>(18,466)</u>
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2024	<u>735,532</u>
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2025	<u>717,065</u>



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## WIGHT SENSE

01983 240222 - [info@wightsense.org.uk](mailto:info@wightsense.org.uk)

## SIGHT FOR WIGHT

01983 522205 - [enquiries@iwsb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@iwsb.org.uk)

Millbrooke House

Newport

Isle of Wight

PO30 1DD

Website: [www.sightforwight.org.uk](http://www.sightforwight.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sight4wight/](http://www.facebook.com/sight4wight/)

## DRESS FOR LESS

01983 523197 - [retail@iwsb.org.uk](mailto:retail@iwsb.org.uk)

57 Pyle Street

Newport

Isle of Wight

PO30 1UB

Facebook: [search for Dress for Less Group](#)



**ISLE OF WIGHT SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND**

England & Wales - Charity number 1149415

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# Accounts

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# The Isle of Wight Society for the Blind

Annual Report and Accounts  
For the Year ended  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Known as Sight for Wight and Wight Sense  
Registered Charity 1149415  
Company Limited by Guarantee Number 6240404



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## Welcome from our Chair, Sue

A warm welcome to everyone. We present our annual report and accounts for the Isle of Wight Society for the Blind, known as Sight for Wight and Wight Sense.



Established in 1865, we are the oldest Isle of Wight charity offering help, support and advice to people living with all levels of Sight Loss and, from 1 April 2022, rehabilitation services for those living with both Hearing and Sight loss.

During this, my fifth year as Chair of the Board of Trustees, we began the fulfilment of our Isle of Wight Sensory Contract offering Holistic Care Act assessments to anyone living with Sight and or Hearing Loss under our new second brand, Wight Sense.

Sight for Wight offers lifelong support to just under 700 Visually Impaired Island residents with members having varied levels of sight loss; each at differing stages of their sight loss journey. Embedding our 2020 strategy, we treat each member as an individual and their own goals are put at the forefront of everything we do.

Without the commitment of our team of volunteers, staff and trustees, the generous ongoing donations from our supporters and the direct feedback from our members, we would not be able to offer the breadth and extent of service that we do.

Thank you to every person who has, and will, contribute to us.

**Sue Bungey - Chair of the Trustees**



## Welcome from our CEO, Lisa



My third year as CEO of this historic Charity, I am honoured to be at the helm as our services expanded to include rehabilitation services for both Hearing and Visually Impaired Isle of Wight Residents.

We took over the Sensory Contract on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 welcoming the team from the previous contract holder, the RNID. As CEO I wanted to ensure that both Sight and Hearing Impaired clients were welcomed equally into the Service from the very outset so we needed a name that represented everyone equally. To this end, Wight Sense was born.



**WIGHT SENSE**

### Isle of Wight Sensory Service


We are a team of specialists whose aim is to help anyone with sensory loss live safely, confidently and independently

We offer free information, advice, loan equipment and support to Island residents living with Sight and/or Hearing loss

[www.wightsense.org.uk](http://www.wightsense.org.uk)  
[info@wightsense.org.uk](mailto:info@wightsense.org.uk)

01983 240222

**Monday - Friday**  
**9am - 4pm**  
Millbrooke House,  
137 Carisbrooke Road, Newport  
PO30 1DD



### Sight for Wight

The Island Charity for anyone living with or affected by Sight Loss

We provide peer-to-peer and specialist help to anyone living with Sight Loss including:

- One-to-one Support
- Door to Door Transport
- Sighted Guides
- Befriending Service
- Local Newsletter
- 1,400 CD Audio Library
- Weekly Talking News
- Peer to Peer Support
- Craft, Active, Sport and Social activities
- Member led Newsletter

01983 522205  
[www.sightforwight.org.uk](http://www.sightforwight.org.uk)



## **WIGHT SENSE**

In our first year, we completed just over 2,600 interactions with our clients which included 492 referrals resulting in 289 home-based assessments, 631 follow-up visits and 398 onward referrals. In addition, we answered 793 queries from other individuals.

## **SIGHT FOR WIGHT**

With members nearly reaching 700 at the year end, the number of interactions we have with members has increased beyond any expectations. Our weekly and monthly activity program has expanded over the year with new faces appearing as the new sessions began. We have been very lucky that our volunteer base continues to expand to cover the growing need and, in particular, offering door-to-door transport which, every time we survey, our members come out as a vital need.

We received a grant this year to set up an accessible IT Suite from the Awards for All Lottery program. This gives our members the chance to have one-on-one training in how to set up IT equipment to suit their own accessibility needs. The grant allowed us to purchase laptops, iPads, Tablets and 70" screens to offer this individual training and group training too. We welcomed, for example, Age UK's own IT volunteers and give them a series of training on setting up and using accessibility features on Laptops.

The Suite meant a bit of a physical move around at our centre, the by product of which, was a new equipment room being made from a storage room which has proved a huge bonus to the IT suite project.



We also received a **grant from GKN** to purchase a specialised laptop with software to continue the roll out of our 'Hello Everyone' QR Codes.

As well as our member activities our other projects continued throughout the year including:

**A Friend in Need**, our telephone befriending scheme which still exceeds the predicted number of service users and continues to recruit both volunteers and new service users every month.

**Our Alexa Sight for Wight skill** which has now been expanded to include SCAM warnings and a new What's On section. This is in addition to the weekly Talking News, the quarterly Newsletter and Meet the Staff and Team sections.

**Hello Everyone QR Codes;** their roll out continues, notably with 31 Gift To Nature Island Sites being added during the year. This roll out is of particular note as all of these sites are nature trails and therefore presented quite a new ask of our Audible Codes. We again used our trusted Blind and Partially sighted members to walk out the



routes offering a perspective from both long cane and Guide Dog users. The sites have all had numerous people scan and listen to the codes and new sites are planned for 2023.



The use of the codes has far outreached our original thoughts; they were an audible guide to allow a visually impaired person unaided access to a building. In reality, we were finding so many different groups of people were using them, people living with dementia, people using mobility aids and those living with anxiety for example. We therefore expanded the codes to include a full video for these additional groups' use.

**Our Newsletter;** this publication, which is sent out in nine different formats to just under 900 people per issue, continues to receive heartfelt feedback from its readers. Written by our members for our members, it really is designed to help real people with real day-to-day things.

**Our Education program,** this teaches Island primary school children about avoidable sight loss and good eye health, has flourished. For the second year to celebrate Summer Solstice being the longest day in the year, we produced a second video to introduce the concept of the program and to teach children the dangers of sunlight.





With the **Audio Library** celebrating 53 years and the **Talking News** celebrating 1,488 editions, they continue to attract new users proving their value, be it that more and more of these are online users for the Talking News rather than the traditional USB sticks.

Our working partnerships continue to expand as we 100% believe if someone else is doing it well; signpost, do not replicate. We all have limited resources and time and following our principle objectives, we need “to employ all resources efficiently and effectively.”

During the year, I worked very closely with four other Island organisations to write a full policy with practical advice on how to interact with all people when setting up surveys and research, a very thorough project which I look forward to being rolled out in 2023/24.

In summary, the year to March 2023 has been an exceptionally busy year with not only the introduction of the Wight Sense rehabilitation service but a large increase in the number of interactions we have with Sight for Wight members on a daily basis. Our staff, volunteers and Trustees remain faithful to our beloved Charity and I know, without them, the Charity plans and aspirations would not be able to keep on growing; thank you.

Having lived with 88% sight loss since birth and with progressive hearing loss, I naturally use my own “living” experience, but I know fundamentally every single person, regardless of whether or not they are living with sight loss, is an individual and deserves to be treated as one.

*Lisa Hollyhead*

**Lisa Hollyhead - Chief Executive Officer**



## Trustees' Report – A Strategic Approach

The Trustees are pleased to present their Annual Directors' Report, together with the financial statements of The Isle of Wight Society for the Blind for the year ending 31 March 2023.

We have increased our range of services to meet the strategic aims identified in our 2020 Strategy and monitored our progress against this strategy. A full three years will be completed next year to look at the longer and medium term goals set.

We have reached out with an Islandwide collaborative approach to provide the best possible services to our members with efficient use of resources.

It is a strong belief of the Trustees that working with the wider community will produce the best results for our members. We should all play to our strengths and allow others to fulfil our weaker areas.

Our core aims are:

- To identify the needs of people living with and affected by Sight Loss.
- Develop an Isle of Wight network to fulfil them.
- To raise funds, sufficient to maintain service in the long-term, and deploy all resources efficiently and responsibly.
- To invest in our team of staff, volunteers and members for long-term benefit to everyone involved.

As detailed last year, the Trustees asked the CEO to tender for the Isle of Wight Sensory Service Contract commencing 1 April 2022.



The contract was won and has been very successfully fulfilled in the first year of this five-year contract. The additional knowledge gained by Sight for Wight Staff on hearing impairment, helping our dual sense members has been, as hoped, very beneficial.

To ensure our sustainability, we have continued a rigorous financial review of all expenditure, and whilst the attached financial statements show a negative reduction to reserves, this was a planned decision by the Trustees to utilise a legacy received during the year ended 31 March 2022.

The Trustees have charged the CEO with implementing a Grant based strategy for the year to 31 March 2024 and onwards to continue to address the flexibility of the Charity's income; this said, our local fundraising and awareness continues to grow with the Charity going from strength to strength.

The Trustees continue to monitor the Charity's reserves, ensuring their low-risk strategy is adhered to and including a review of the portfolio manager.

The Board of Trustees wish to thank each and every member of staff, volunteers, supporters and, most importantly, charity members for their support, help and honest feedback on services. This makes it possible for Sight for Wight to continue to support people on an individual basis throughout their sight loss journey.

*S.P. Bungey*

**Sue Bungey**  
**Chair of Trustees**





## The Whole Team

We are here to help people from their diagnosis until they reach a point where they can live safely, confidently and independently. There is no minimum level of sight loss anyone needs to access our service, no referral form, no tests or medicals, just a yes, I would like to join.

Firmly embedded into the philosophy of Sight for Wight is our strategic aim namely ***to invest in our team of staff, Trustees volunteers and members for the long-term benefit to everyone involved.***

### STAFF

Our team of staff has doubled in the year as the Wight Sense Team came over from the RNID as part of the Sensory Service contract.



We all have our roles, but everyone in our team knows what everyone else does; this ensures members get consistent and responsive communication and the training undergone in the year really has meant that our advice is clear, current and correct.

In addition to refresher training with our associate organisations, this year we have all undergone training with our local Wight Care, Mental Health First Aid and Deafblind UK.



Our CEO also sits on several local and national Boards ensuring the voice of the Charity and our members we represent, is heard as far and wide as possible. This includes The Age Friendly Island, The Isle of Wight Opticians Society, Optometry First, Hampshire and Isle Wight VI Board, Hover User Group, Solent Micro Mobility and The Accessible Island.

The staff all understand that, without the feedback of members and the tireless support of volunteers, we simply could not offer the level and diverse nature of support and activities that we do, therefore every piece of feedback and every minute a volunteer gives is very much appreciated.

## **VOLUNTEERS – OUR TRUSTEES**

Sight for Wight's team of Trustees worked tirelessly attending our quarterly main board meetings, supporting individual staff on specific projects, advising on lobbying, making new introductions and both raising awareness and vital funds.

The Board includes two severely sight impaired Trustees and one deaf Trustee but, all the Board have a personal experience of the day-to-day reality of living with a sensory impairment through a close family member or friend giving true empathy towards our members.

## **ONE TRUSTEE STORY – MEET RUTH HOLLINGSHEAD**

*Being a member of Sight for Wight lets me take advantage of all the exciting social activities we offer, being a volunteer lets me use my experience of sight loss to inform and support others, and being a Trustee means I can give something back to the charity by using my extensive knowledge to help shape service provision.*





*I would say a huge heartfelt thank you to all the staff and volunteers, as well as the members, who make Sight for Wight such an amazing charity which I am proud to be a part of.*

*Ruth Hollingshead*

## **VOLUNTEERS**

With a small staff team, much of what we do can only be achieved with the tremendous support, so generously given, by our volunteers. They support all areas of our operations in facilitating and delivering member activities, education, fundraising, administration and governance.



Whilst we sadly have to say goodbye to people, we always celebrate the work they have done for us and thank all volunteers for their continued help and support. Equally, we welcome new people who bring fresh ideas and experiences.

Our usual annual summer celebration to thank volunteers was extremely well attended with almost half of our volunteers there. The weather this year did mean it was all inside but the smiling faces more than made up for that.





At the start of the year, our volunteer numbers were 82 and, by the end of the year, had increased this to 102, 15 below pre-pandemic numbers and certainly a different mix with many volunteers working remotely but every person giving so much to us.

## **ONE VOLUNTEER STORY - MEET TERRY PEARSON**

*I have been a volunteer at Sight for Wight for over fifteen years, my interest having been fostered originally by my mother's visual impairment in her later years, and my own glaucoma diagnosis when I was in my mid-fifties.*

*Over the years, I have worked on the Charity's stalls at various fetes and, for several years, was the quizmaster for quizzes held in Millbrooke House.*

*I was also active in the introduction of the original 'boom boxes', which enabled members for the first time to hear the Talking News on a memory stick, instead of the less versatile cassette-tapes.*

*For a long time, I was one of the Talking News studio readers, before moving, filling a gap on the recorder's rota, which involved me in recording, editing and copying readings onto memory sticks, in preparation for distribution to the Society's members.*



*Since the start of the first lockdown, I have regularly recorded news articles at home and, as some of you will probably be aware, I sometimes contribute to the Society's wonderful newsletter with "Terry's Twenty Teasers" ~ so now you know who to blame!!*

*Terry Pearson*



## MEMBERS

Serving our members is at the forefront of everything we do; it is why we are here. So, let's celebrate our members by looking at activities they have taken part in and some of their own experiences.

Our number of weekly activities has grown steadily throughout the year as have the number of people attending them.

April 2022 opened with our first Members' holiday in many years; the group of twenty including Volunteers, Trustees, Members and Staff had a thoroughly enjoyable time and the wonderful feedback received just makes the whole thing worthwhile. Two members subsequently booked to go back independently on short breaks as we gave them the confidence to book; the perfect outcome.



*Our Members' Manager said, "The best three working days of my career seeing every single person join in with Archery, Rifle Shooting and Axe throwing whilst using the leisure facilities, such as the pool and attending the evening entertainment and being the ones on the front row seats each evening. I have never seen so many people go through such an emotional change from arrival to departure; we will definitely come back." And we did in October 2022.*



## Some of our regular groups include:

**Swimming** – We hire the local pool for our members once a week, offering door-to-door transport, we understand the freedom water gives our members and are delighted to support this activity in its 25<sup>th</sup> year of running.



**Coffee and Chat** numbers have soared from single figures to regularly over 25 people attending. The room is filled with laughter and chat. This group offers a genuine time for peer-to-peer support for our members when tips are passed on, suggestions for island wide attractions others have visited and, when needed, a shoulder to cry on.

**Riding and Bowling** – Started in 2022 with members enjoying these new activities rekindling long lost hobbies for some and starting a new sport for others.



**Striders and Strollers**; this is our walking group; when people join, it is obvious who is living with a visual impairment and who the volunteers are.

Within three months it is impossible to tell; strollers walk for 1-3 miles and striders for 4-6 miles. Watching people's confidence grow brings a tear to everyone's eye, every time.

**Book Club** – Finally, back to face-to-face meetings each month, this group listens to a book and then, like any other book, discusses it; it is always, however, accompanied by tea and cake!

**Yoga Club** – New for 2022 one of our volunteers kindly runs this class with no prior experience needed and chair options available for those who prefer it. Thank you Trish, for giving up your time.



**Golf** – Continuing for another year, our group of golfers receiving free training from the club’s resident professional player, the group is small but steady and they have all become very firm friends.

**Tandem Bikes** – A new one-off activity we tried this year was tandem bike riding; five members came forward and filled all the trial slots within hours. They enjoyed it so much we have decided to look at running an annual fundraising event based around it. *“I cannot believe I am back on a bike; it was so amazing there; are no words!”*



**Wet Days out** – Sailing and other water-based activities are an absolute hit with some of our members; this year we attended Wet Wheels, Scott Bader and the RVYC Open Day.





**Dry Days out** – We took members to the theatre; it was a long night with the ferries, but everybody loved it, enjoying the touch tour and audio description of the Lion King at The Mayflower.

We enjoyed a very special day with 86 members at our **Jubilee party** held at Wendes Hall; the Island's High Sheriff attended. Well done your Majesty.



Our **Christmas Lunch** this year was held in January; we were so busy leading up to Christmas, we decided to postpone the Christmas lunch until January. We filled up the available seats within a day and we all enjoyed the three course meal cooked by our local College Students.

Once again, our members were given their own time at the Isle of Wight Christmas “try a sport event.” This event signifies the turning on of the Christmas Lights here on the Island. Our members took to their skates this year and in fact ended up holding up some of our volunteers!!



And to round off 2022 members, volunteers and staff enjoyed **Mince Pies and Mulled Wine** at our centre.



Finally, our Thursday **Mix and Mingle Group** for our more senior members, who most commonly live with age related hearing and sight loss, enjoyed a variety of topics throughout the year including:

- Cuddles with two newborn lambs.
- Easter party including bonnet making.
- Bring the beach to Millbrook Day making clay decorations with shells and driftwood.
- A day at Wimbledon where we enjoyed strawberries and cream although the members took the balloon tennis rather too seriously.
- Decorating eyes and sunglasses for our carnival entry which we placed inside the minibus, and they also gave us ideas for our entry which was great to include them in our making. We won best dressed entry.
- Several sing along events with local musicians including volunteers Maurice and John.
- Day trips to the Donkey Sanctuary and Zoo.
- Bring and Buy table top sales, raffles and quizzes.
- Tabletop sales allowing Christmas Shopping for the Grand Kids!




**IN FOND MEMORY OF  
ROY PERRY**

Roy was a long-term member who enjoyed many aspects of the Charity, especially attending the Thursday Mix and Mingle most weeks when health allowed.

Roy also took part in our Strollers group and came along to our recent Warner's holiday and was a regular entrant in our annual Story Writing competition and actually won it a few years ago which he was very proud of.

He will be sorely missed by our Mix and Mingle group and our condolences go to Dawn and their families at this sad time.



Roy pictured with his wife Dawn





## **MEET MIX AND MINGLE VOLUNTEER - Maurice Kachuk**

*When I arrived on the Island, I looked for some volunteering which I saw as a way to meet new friends and Sight for Wight was advertising for readers for their Talking News.*

*I thought, I can do that, and so I came to Millbrooke House to meet Susan and Chris and I was soon in the studio reading the news.*

*This led to me performing my cabaret act at one of the garden parties and a couple of other functions run by the Charity.*

*Susan asked if I could perform my act for her Mix Mingle Group, knowing so many of these more senior citizens only leave their house once a week and that is to this group, I gladly accepted.*



*The whole team and members at Sight for Wight have made me feel so very welcome, for which I will always be grateful. I have met and made some great friends.*

**Maurice Kachuk**

## **Open days**

During the year we held an Isle of Wight Society for the Blind Open Day; these days are designed for two purposes:





- Allow people to trial equipment first hand from other companies.
- Introduce new people into our services and other organisations who can help.

We welcomed 82 new people that day and 40 of our own members trying out equipment; we have plans to add further local charities next time we hold this event to broaden the variety of hobbies and interests on offer.

## Low Vision Day 11th March 2023 10:30-3:30



Wendes Hall, Woodbine Close, Newport,  
PO30 1AN - Onsite Parking Available

Sight for Wight offers support through your low vision journey from diagnosis to reaching a level of independence that you choose.

**RSVP ON 522205**



## Hearing Help Day 11th March 2023 10:30-3:30



Wendes Hall, Woodbine Close, Newport,  
PO30 1AN - Onsite Parking Available

Our **Wight Sense** team of specialists help anyone with sensory loss live safely, confidently and independently. They offer free home visits to discuss, assess and agree your needs. They demonstrate equipment, offer training and make referrals to other organisations.

**RSVP ON 240222**





## **MEMBER SUPPORT OFFICER**

The Board of Trustees took very seriously the real impact of COVID and released some reserves to pay for a new Member Support Officer in June 2021. This role was clearly needed as someone who can just visit members in their homes and help with whatever one-to-one support they need and so the Trustees have continued to fund this from reserves into 2022/23. Part of this was helping people get back outside, not mobility training but confidence building. One of our describes a member's their experience:

*I went to see a gentleman who had lost his sight very recently, to the degree where he was no longer able to drive. He had been, up to this point, very independent and spent most weekends away fishing across the country. I attended for a simple form filling but got chatting to the gentlemen and soon understood how much confidence he had lost and was no longer going out at all in reality, as he had never used public transport before.*

*I explained to him about a symbol cane that showed others he had sight loss and he agreed to give it a go. A few weeks later I followed up with him, and he pointed to the symbol cane on the table and said, "That cane you gave me has changed my life, I feel 100% more confident. People have come up to me to help, cars have stopped for me to cross the road and I am not bumping into people in the street. I cannot thank you enough." He is now looking to book a coach holiday and will be taking his symbol cane with him.*

## **OUR NEWSLETTER**

With previous funding ending we reverted back to four editions a year instead of six, the need to dissipate information quickly, due to changing pandemic issues, had also subsided. We regularly get feedback on our newsletter, so we understand how much it is appreciated and so, we went out to advertisers to help fund costs.




## Every issue contains –

- All activities groups and social meetings
- A volunteer story and a member story
- Tips from members for daily living hacks
- Update from every member of staff
- Terry's twenty teasers
- How to dress for your size and shape

**TIPS FROM MEMBERS**


"A good tip for when I use boxed tin foil and cling film, push both ends of the box inwards and the rolls won't fall out!" I never knew about this!

**Di from Sandown**




"When boiling any vegetables, I use a chip wire net (basket) in the pan so that when they are done, I lift the net out and there is then no need to use a colander. This reduces the risk of pouring boiling water on myself.

**Ruth from Newport**



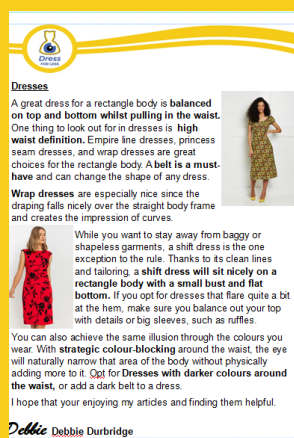
"I am always struggling to know what colour jumper I am wearing. So, something that's helped me is, I snip the labels in the same way for my different coloured jumpers."

**Melvin from Freshwater**



## Example of articles included this year:

- Art Exhibition Podcast
- How to look after your feet and get help when you need it
- 999 BSL service
- Blind Parents UK
- Ryde Library Audio Group
- Living Well With Sight Loss course
- Taxi Law explained
- Hovertravel - Try before you Fly
- 195 - 1471 - 1571 Services - They all could be free
- Swan Advocacy Network
- Having An Eye Test what happens
- The PARES service
- Vision loss after a Stroke
- Auditory Processing Disorder
- Cost of Living
- Accessibility Grants
- IOW Council Training online



The reach of the publication is now nearly 900 for each newsletter.



## BEFRIENDING SERVICE

The lottery funding we received in 2020 allowed our befriending service to be born. The difference with our service was that we actively engaged VI members to be the volunteer callers. Matching people with similar living experience, conditions and age clearly worked with the service attracting 65 members by the year end of the first year against a projected target of 40.

Out of the 280 people identified as potentially needing the service, this equates to 23% take up. By the end of March 2023 numbers had dropped to 49 every week with a further 9 receiving fortnightly calls. We are delighted some people feel able to leave the service as they have become more active and welcome all our new service users in.



## Our Audio Services

The Lottery Funding also allowed us to write and set up our own Alexa Skill which was awarded an Amazon Excellence award upon launch. We have added to the Newsletter and the weekly Talking News with SCAMS and What's On this year and monitor the use of the service and are so pleased to see it continually grow.

## OUR BUYING SERVICE

We continue offering our 'we will help you buy things' online service. As identified in our survey, many people struggled with online ordering for specific items, so we do it for them; it really is that simple.

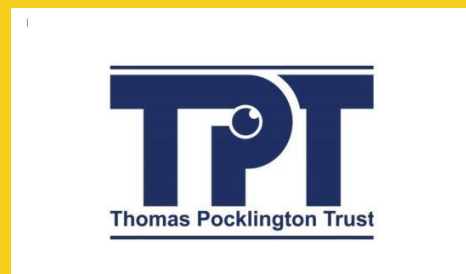
They tell us what equipment they are looking for; we use our Amazon, RNIB and Cobolt account with returns always available.



This service includes the large print diaries from VIP diaries, watches from Cobolt and daylight lamps from Amazon, for example. Further, when needed, our Member Services Officer will visit the member at home and install it for them. ***A little extra help is often all people need.***

## **LIVING WELL WITH SIGHT LOSS COURSE**

We delivered five Living Well with Sight Loss courses this year supported by the RNIB and Thomas Pocklington Trust. These courses offer a very broad insight to the reality of living with Sight Loss which we are then able to follow with more detail at the person's own pace. The courses will continue into next year.



The broad areas covered are:

- **Part One** - 'Starting Out' – The certificate of visual impairment process, should you register, how do you register and what are the other main eye care services.
- **Part Two** 'In the Home' – looking at how to regain independence in Daily Living, the aids and Technology available.
- **Part Three** 'Out and About' – Talking about independent mobility, using transport and the concessions available.
- **Part Four** 'Looking after ourselves' – General help on eye health, your own wellbeing, local social and leisure activities and your next step.



## FEEDBACK AND CATCH UP

Formerly the Members Forum, we thought changing the name would better represent this as the two way meeting it is; members feedback to us and catchup on the latest news from us.

Aiming to get a good cross section of age, sight loss diagnosis, experience and congenital v acquired sight loss conditions, the group meet quarterly, and all action points are cleared by the following meeting.

We plan to expand this in 2023 / 2024 to add a second Wight Sense group to further engage feedback from the service users.

## PROMOTING AVOIDABLE SIGHT LOSS

Sight for Wight aims to promote avoidable Sight Loss through our Education Project. This year saw the program finally being rolled out after a very delayed COVID start. We went to 11 schools during the year of the 37 Primary schools, teaching our program to 1,499 children. The program has three versions, Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and aims to teach children:

- About different eye conditions.
- What sight impaired means.
- How to keep your eyes healthy and look after their future.



Discover with Swoop  
The Owl

*I use my sense of sight and hearing!  
I can see in the dark better than humans and use my hearing to find my food!*

We are going to use the sense I use the most to do this!  
**SIGHT AND HEARING**

TREASURE ISLAND

Who will help us learn about different pieces of equipment and how equipment can help someone who has sight loss





## HELLO EVERYONE, QR CODE

The 'Hello Everyone' codes have two main functions:

### Entry into a building

These codes offer an audible guide covering:

- How to enter a building; e.g. pull or push.
- A mind's eye view of the room.
- Where to find the Reception desk.



We want people to be able to enter any building unassisted with confidence. We have now added a feature to change the language into 10 pre-defined options, together with a written version to allow people's own devices to freely translate. We maintain that the key to the code's success is that they are written by VI people for VI people, and they sell for an average of £75, including 3 years' hosting.

We are very aware that there are other systems emerging and, indeed, technology will improve but, for now, we are genuinely helping people in the here and now, allowing them to use their own navigation skills, just telling them where to aim for.

### LOBBY FOR THE VOICE OF OUR MEMBERS

One of our core aims is to ensure, as much as we can, that the needs of our members are taken into account in everyday life. This year's examples include:

We successfully worked with Wight Fibre who supply thousands of homes here on the Island with telephone, internet and TV packages. Previously the free BT directory enquires service had not been available on their network but we are delighted to report it is.



Our previous work with the RNIB to give the right to a **confidential vote** to our members has been enhanced this year by us engaging with our own council with whom we are now working.

We want to ensure members know what devices they can and can't take with them into the voting booth and continue to work towards confidential voting for everyone.

2021 saw the issuing of a **new style of PDQ** machine which has no tactile buttons. Although the obvious answer is to use contactless, the reality is, every four to six transactions, the machine will ask you to input your number, a simple but impossible task if you do not know where the buttons are on the screen.



We contacted the distributor / manufacture and local PDQ providers and found, in fact, machines had been issued with an overlay to add a tactile guide for users and many were equipped with a sound based VI system. Sadly, no training is given to the establishment, so the guides are never added, and the audible option not understood.

We continue to work to change this.

The work we started in 2020 with **BERYL scooters** continued and we have now formed a Solent Micro Mobility board as the emergence of electric bikes has arrived and, of course, there is the overall issue with silent electric cars.

## **Surveys, making them accessible.**

Last year we started work with the Isle of Wight Council after receiving a survey intended entirely for VI people to complete in an



entirely inaccessible format. Working with Age UK, the RNID, People Matter and three other local groups we formed a board and worked together to produce guidelines on what is an accessible survey. This group established a detailed guide for the IW Council to use when producing all research and surveys and led to:

This led to four strands of work:

- **Audit Tool:** This audit tool is designed for departments who design and deliver services, such as Commissioners. Designed for external public facing consultations. Internal and external audit.
- **Training modules:** a specifically developed set of three modules that can be delivered as part of the Age Friendly Island training or on their own. Organisations can request AFI Training and add Accessible Consultation to their package.
- **Briefing for elected members:** The leaflet will support elected members when working with Isle of Wight Council Officers.
- **Leaflet for members of the public:** The leaflet will enable members of the public to know how to ask for access to consultations that affect them.

We will continue to work with anyone and everyone we can to take this forward.

**Finally, our promise to our members remains as:**

- Strive to empower, providing the best possible services.
- Provide professional, expert support, guidance and skills.
- Communicate with a unified voice, ensuring individuals receive consistent messages in their preferred format.
- Always be honest and transparent.



## **MEMBER STORIES - Meet Member, John,**

*I was registered as severely sight impaired at the beginning of 2021, but I'm so pleased to be part of the wonderful organisation 'Sight for Wight'. I attend 'Mix and Mingle' on a Thursday: a typical morning is coffee, chat, a raffle, some sort of craft (right up my street), more chat, lunch, more chat, a talk from a volunteer. So far, I've been to the Zoo (The Wildheart Animal Trust), out with the lunch club and I am booked on a theatre trip. These activities have totally changed my life and therefore I am interested in any outings that my health will allow.*



*All the staff and volunteers are extremely caring – they know each of us by name and understand our limitations. So that's a bit about me .... I'm looking forward to next Thursday, the highlight of my week.*

John sadly passed away this year.

## **MEMBER STORIES - Meet Member, Pat,**

*My Dry AMD was diagnosed about 20 years ago and the first ten years were very slow in deterioration. I was always an avid reader and crossword fanatic, so now I rely on the Talking News, Audio Library and my print reader.*





*Michael and I enjoy coming to the Coffee & Chat on Wednesday mornings at Sight for Wight and go swimming with the group on Mondays at Medina. We really enjoyed the Christmas lunch at the College and especially the Jubilee Tea Party recently.*

*The staff and volunteers at Sight for Wight (and the members) are a great bunch of people; so friendly, welcoming and helpful. Thanks to them all.*

## **WIGHT SENSE**

Started on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 during the year the service grew from strength to strength as the Sight for Wight Team and Wight Sense Team grew to work together very quickly sharing knowledge and experiences as individual cases arose.

The team of assessors visit people in their homes and talk to them as individual people with their own needs, expectations and life experiences. No two people with the same condition will have the same wishes and desires and will certainly have had different life experiences which will influence these.

Whilst a physical Care Act Assessment must be completed for all the clients to ensure eligibility, the way that the visits actually work in reality is a conversation. Our assessors get to know each person and then put a plan in place to help them live safely, confidently and independently by offering training, equipment and referrals to other organisations.

Goals, aims and targets are agreed mutually and a plan to achieve the set.



## Wight Sense

Wight Sense is the Rehabilitation Service offered to all Isle of Wight Residents living with a sense loss that affects their daily living. Anyone can be referred to the Service, either by themselves or through any other person involved in their lives. A simple phone call starts the process, no complicated forms and certainly no expectations. One of our team of assessors will make contact and start a conversation of how we can help.

The Wight Sense team is made up of:

### **Caron (that's Caron with a C!) our Vision Specialist**



Caron, like all our assessors, will visit you at home; you can then chat about what it is you want to do and now finding more difficult; she will visit you at a time that works for you and stay as long as you need her to.

### **Karen (that's Karen with a K!) our Deafblind Specialist**

Once you have had your first visit, you will agree your goals with your assessor and we can discuss what free loan equipment we can offer you to start to help achieve those goals.



### **Paula our Hearing Specialist**



We will then follow up with further visits to help you achieve what you want to and refer you on to other people to ensure you succeed.

This could include **Pete** our Mobility and Daily Living Skills trainer; he is there to give you the confidence to get out and about as much as you would like to.





We think the best way to illustrate this is by looking how we helped a few individual members:

### **Mrs S who lives with a dual sensory impairment**

*Mrs S was referred to the Wight Sense Sensory Service for support and, at her home visit, it was identified that Mrs S was living with loneliness and social isolation. During the visit, the staff member provided Mrs S with a welcome pack from Sight for Wight, which detailed a number of social activities that she could take part in and crucially offered door-to-door transport.*

*Co-incidentally, Mrs T, who also has a dual sensory impairment, and lives in the same town as Mrs S, was referred to the Wight Sense Sensory Service for support at the same time and further, her visit identified the same isolation and loneliness.*

*Both ladies were further assessed for practical help, training and equipment which they both received.*

*Mrs S and Mrs T now regularly attend the Sight for Wight weekly 'Mix and Mingle' group and, as both ladies were picked up together to go to this group in the same vehicle, they quickly struck up a friendship.*

*Both Mrs S and Mrs T have found a new lease of life and are regularly socialising with each other outside of Sight for Wight activities as they live in the same town. They now go out for coffee and also have lunch together every week.*





*The families of both Mrs S and Mrs T have noticed the change in their personalities and demeanour, reporting they are both much happier and brighter now and feel they have something to live for.*

### ***Mr C who is Visually Impaired***

*He was referred to the Wight Sense Sensory Service for support. He suffers from glaucoma, which has caused his field of vision to become seriously reduced. As a result of the deterioration in his condition, Mr C felt he could no longer go to the local shops, walk his dog on his own or carry out simple domestic tasks such as make a cup of tea or prepare a meal.*

*A visit followed at his home address at which it was established it was a lack of confidence not physical capability which had convinced Mr C he could not do these things.*

*During subsequent visits from the Rehabilitation Officer, Mr C was taught again how to make a hot drink, cook a simple meal and use domestic appliances such as a microwave in a new way, taking account of his reduced vision. In addition, Cane mobility sessions followed, designed to improve his cane skills in the local area allowing him to learn how to identify hazards, level changes and, hence, gain the confidence to go to the shops and enjoy leisure activities once again.*

*At the end of his rehab training, Mr C said, “I feel 20 years younger; my whole confidence has been lifted, not only in the new skills I have learnt but in everything else too; thank you that is all I can say, thank you. “*





*He now visits his local on a regular basis, and is back at the seafront with his dog, all unaided on his own.*

***Finally, Ms AB a lady living with progressive hearing loss.***

*Ms AB is a lady in her early 50's who had a hearing loss at birth that wasn't discovered until she was well into her schooling. She was given hearing aids in her youth which helped her enormously.*

*Over the last 1-2 years Ms AB has been undergoing intensive treatment for cancer and this has impacted her hearing even more.*

*She has, relatively recently, been given some new NHS hearing aids which have helped. However, not all the hearing issues can be addressed with hearing aids; for example, Ms AB is still not able to hold an effective conversation over the phone, so email, letter or text messages are more appropriate means of communication for her.*

*An appointment was made to visit her which resulted in alerting equipment being installed in her home, to ensure her safety from fire and to make her aware of visitors to her home. Additionally, she needed a clock that would guarantee she woke in time for her numerous hospital appointments and TV listening equipment to ensure the volume of her TV does not interfere with her neighbours as she lives in a terraced property.*





*The TV listening system, a Signolux system, incorporates a clock receiver, portable receiver, smoke alarm transmitter, vibrating pillow alert and a bell push transmitter. This integrated system gives both protection in the day with the portable receiver and at night too with the pillow vibrating alert.*

*Ms AB said, “The TV listener is just wonderful because it has taken away the worry and anxiety that I might, unknowingly be causing a problem for my neighbours with the TV volume.”*

*Ms AB couldn’t believe how much support there was available to her and was so very grateful for everything Wight Sense had done.*

## The Real Level of Sight Loss on the Island

<b>People on the IW living with partial sight loss</b>		
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2030</b>
Isle of Wight	5760	7090 ( ↑ 19%)
UK	1900000	2307000 ( ↑ 18%)
<b>People on the IW living with blindness</b>		
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2030</b>
Isle of Wight	920	1170 ( ↑ 21%)
UK	292000	365000 ( ↑ 20%)

- More than 6,680 people on the Island are living with registerable Sight Loss.
- 48% of all cases of sight loss are avoidable.
- 1,282 people are registered as Sight Impaired and Severely Sight.



## Financial review

### FUNDRAISING

The remit of the CEO is to consider the overall **fundraising** policy and strategy, and to oversee all fundraising activities.

Alongside this, the Local Fundraising Committee meet quarterly and plans out the year's local events and awareness campaign. These events included:

### Annual Story Writing Competition

Started some 13 years ago by Sight for Wight patrons, RC Bridgestock, international crime writing authors, the theme this year was The Sea.

As we do each year, the theme is deliberately broad to allow people to interpret it as they wish; some stories were about creatures living in the Sea, events that happened near the Sea and how the Sea had changed people's lives.

Entries grew again as they have done year-on-year and finally, we returned to a face-to-face awards ceremony. It never fails to amaze the calibre of celebrities Chris attracts to read the stories:



RICHARD CADELL



MARK SIMMONS



BETHANNIE HARE



DOMINIC MINGHELLA



## The category winners were:

Scarlett Maddison-Wigg  
Katy Trafford  
Rachel Lambert  
Juliet Bell

'The Dangerous Sea' (under 8's)  
'The Sea Maze' (8 - 11's)  
'The Sea' (12 - 17s)  
'Cometh The Hour' (18+)



## Murder at Millbrooke

We were finally able to hold our murder night postponed four times due to COVID. Islanders gathered to unveil who killed Lord Millbrooke but was he dead? The plot thickened as the evening progressed. Could there be that fatal twist at the end. A truly enjoyable evening was had by all and, of course, funds raised to support the services we offer.



## Island Carnivals

During the year we entered both the Newport Carnival and the Newport Illuminated Carnival. Distributing our little bugs; members, volunteers and staff all dressed up and showed the Charity off to anyone and everyone.





As a direct result we received a £2,300 grant from **GKN** who were so impressed with how many members were involved and we chatted to them about the services provided.





## Member Led Fundraising

One of our members, John, took it upon himself to swim a sponsored swim in aid of the Charity and raised plenty of awareness and funds in his gallant efforts.



## Rex and Jackie walk the Island.

Whilst at School, Rex heard all about looking after his eyes and about different eye conditions and their causes as part of our Education Program; he was so inspired by this he decided to walk all the way around the Isle of Wight to raise funds for the Charity.

He completed it very successfully and our CEO went to the School to receive the monies enjoying his presentation on the adventures he encountered on the way.



**Nicola** completed the Southampton Marathon all in aid of Sight for Wight; her Dad is a very active member of Sight for Wight and she wanted to do her bit to raise some funds; what a performance, she was so pleased when she crossed the finish line.



## KNITTING

We always believe the best way to fundraise is to involve the people who benefit so, again, this year we have got our knitters working!





This project was twofold:

Firstly, to produce the handmade knitted items. Secondly, equally important, to remind members that just because their sight is failing, they can knit just as well and quickly as they ever have with a few minor changes to their set up.

The range of goods included Easter Chicks, Christmas Bath Bombs, Halloween Bats and Pumpkins, Dog Ball faces, Tissue Covers, Mobile Cases and Smiling Bath Bombs. With funds raised, well exceeding 4 figures, everyone was delighted.



Our **100 Club** is just £2 per month to stand a chance of winning £60.

Numbers continued to grow throughout the year but there are some numbers left if you would like to join.

Members are always attracted at the mention of **pudding** and when we added a **quiz**, we found a winning formula. Now a regular event, members, volunteers and staff alike join us at Millbrooke House for our fun nights.



The final way members actively supported us was by entering our annual raffle. Made possible by the generosity of so many individual and company prize donations raising well over £1200.



## Local Island shows and coffee mornings.

This year, shows opened up again on the Island and we attended Riverfest and Wolverton. Whilst sometimes these shows do not raise a huge amount in funds, they are very much equally there as awareness raising events.



## Online campaigns

We were very generously donated an enormous Teddy Bear, we went out online, and set up a Square Raffle to see who the lucky winner would be. Audrey is pictured here holding the her prize, the bear, before it finds its way to a Grand Child, but which one!!



## Donations by Individuals and companies

The Isle of Wight Society for the Blind is an independent local charity that depends on income from legacies, fundraising and donations and the many people who devote their time to helping us. A significant part of this fundraising comes from help from Island Companies and organisations who choose us as their Charity of the year, grant us one-off funds or send regular donations.



## We want to celebrate them: ASDA Jubilee Party



## Calbourne Car Boot Sale



## Barratt Homes Southampton



## Cowes Lions Club



## Vectis Sunrise Rotary

## Waitrose





## ASDA Bucket Collections

### Edgar Ralph Dore Trust Misses Ward Trust



### Tesco Community

R3d51



### Bedales School



### Shanklin Methodist Church





And a huge thank you to our Story Writing competition sponsors and prize givers.

<b>Donations</b>	
Newport Parish Council	Margaret Dilley
Sandown Town Council	Janice Ferguson
Chale Parish Council	
<b>Prizes Donated</b>	
Sandham Office Services (Julie)	ASDA - Clare Jones
Sharon Gritt	Dinosaur Isle - Sue Wilkins
Tesco - Jan Gibson	Appley Manor
Ventnor Botanic Garden (William)	ComiCoffee
WBS Wight Business Services	The Entertainer
Wight Computers Ltd (Andrew)	Garlic Farm
Hovertravel (Neil)	Red Funnel

### Final Bequests

Finally, but by no means least, we want to thank those who have chosen to remember us in their **final Will**. These gifts bring us such joy because it means we truly have helped that person enough for them to think we are a worthy recipient of their life's work. Thank you,

All legacies are extremely valuable, and we have thanked each and every family for their loved one's bequests.

We were also extremely pleased to be remembered, in lieu of flowers, at several of our member's life celebrations; again, such a kind gesture and very much valued.





## **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

Sight for Wight's total income for the year stood at £263,669 compared to £202,285. Whilst the income appears stable, last year legacies were received to the value of £129,676 and this year income from the Wight Sense rehabilitation contract was received totalling £195,000.

After total expenditure of £339,076 (2022: £182,118) and loss on investments of £21,648 (2022 surplus £9,063) the deficit for the year amounted to £97,056 (2022: surplus £29,230).

Towards the very end of the year the Trustees completed the purchase of 57 Pyle Street. The shop was purchased as an investment due to the poor overall performance of the Charles Stanley portfolio and the markets behind it. Millbrooke Enterprises were renting a shop for the trade of Dress for Less and Trustees, after much deliberation, decided to purchase this unit.

Charity Commission permission was sought for the purchase and the implementation of the lease at Market Value. The lease has been written so that, should the trade of Dress for Less not succeed once a full year has passed, then the unit can be rented out to another tenant at a higher rate of return than if the money had been left in the portfolio.

Expenditure is higher due to the Wight Sense contract, all of which were covered by the income received. The costs on the Wight Sense contract came in on budget as agreed with the Isle of Wight Council, including contribution to the core costs of the Charity, such as heat, light, power and administrative support.



## Total Funds and Reserves

The total movement in funds and the net reserves of the Charity is £(97,056). The charity's summary of reserves, including future plans can be summarised as follows:

<b>Total Funds per Accounts</b>	735,532
Less Restricted Funds	-
Fixed Assets	-493,235
General Funds	<b>242,297</b>
<b>Designated Funds</b>	
Millbrooke House maintenance	-30,000
Hello Everyone QR Codes	-26,000
Renovation of purchased Retail unit	-20,000
2020 Education Outreach Program	-12,000
<b>Free reserves</b>	<b>£154,297</b>

Fixed assets are tied up in Millbrooke House, 57 Pyle Street and equipment that we need to deliver our services and activities. Funds are designated to ensure that there is adequate contingency in respect of both Millbrooke House and 57 Pyle Street maintenance. £154,297 equates to seven months working-capital based on the new year's budget.

The Charity utilised legacies received during the year to 2022/2023 to fund Charitable activities in the year.



The Restricted Funds relate to the activities that the donors have specified. The Trustees have set aside the free reserves necessary for day-to-day working capital and to cover potential identifiable financial risks in accordance with the Charity Commission's recommendations and guidance.

## Investment Policy

The performance of the investment portfolio is regularly reviewed by the Trustees and during the year lost value in the volatile markets. The Trustees have confirmed to the investment manager their inexperience in financial markets and therefore given discretion to manage the portfolio within an agreed risk profile. The investment manager submits quarterly progress reports and performance is reviewed accordingly.

It holds designated funds not immediately required, in the expectation of providing a better return than that available from bank or savings accounts. The objective is to produce a balance between capital growth and income. Within the policy remit, the Isle of Wight Society for the Blind has imposed an ethical restriction not to directly invest in any company if a major part of their business could adversely affect visual impairment.

The market value of the portfolio as of 31 March 2023 was £150,995 (2022: £224,821). This takes account of £50,000 withdrawal from the fund to aid the purchase of 57 Pyle Street.

## PENSION FUND

The Charity runs its own NEST pension scheme for current employees for which all contributions are up-to-date and paid.

*Lisa Hollyhead*

**Lisa Hollyhead - CEO**



## Our Trading Company Millbrooke Enterprises CIC

Millbrooke Enterprises CIC, established in 2015, currently generates revenue from Dress for Less, our charity boutique dress agency from St James Street, Newport with a planned move to the new premises, 57 Pyle Street, by June 2023.

The first full year of trading returned after COVID restrictions were finally lifted. The shop sells pre-loved immaculate ladies clothing and accessories by taking in items to sell on client's behalf on a 50/50 basis. All items are inspected for their style, quality and condition before being put out for sale ensuring every customer receives a perfect garment.



Outside of direct Shop sales, Facebook and eBay are used with the former growing hugely in popularity with 1,200 followers by the year end.

The Trustees are very aware that any retail business must now have an online presence to survive, and this is being worked on for future plans. This year has also seen a rise in donated items from customers which has seen a steady increase in excess income over costs.



**Future Plans** - The future of the shop is continuously analysed as it exists entirely to support the Charity and must do just that; produce a worthwhile income. This said, it also acts as window into the charity, supports its own volunteers and provides an outlet for some of the handmade goods produced for the Charity.



During the year we managed to not only retain the majority of volunteers but also increase a further two into the team. Without our volunteers the agency would not be possible; a very sincere thank you to everyone, not only for giving up their time but for tirelessly spreading the word and letting everyone know where they could find us.

Millbrooke Enterprises CIC, again, generated an excess of income over expenditure during the financial year ended 31 March 2023 noting that all salary costs of the Retail Manager, employed by Dress for Less are recovered. For the year 31.03.2023 £10,310 was donated to the Charity. (2022 £13,212)

Full accounts for the Millbrooke Enterprises CIC, Company Number 10017281, are separately reported.

**Debbie Durbridge**

**Retail Manager**

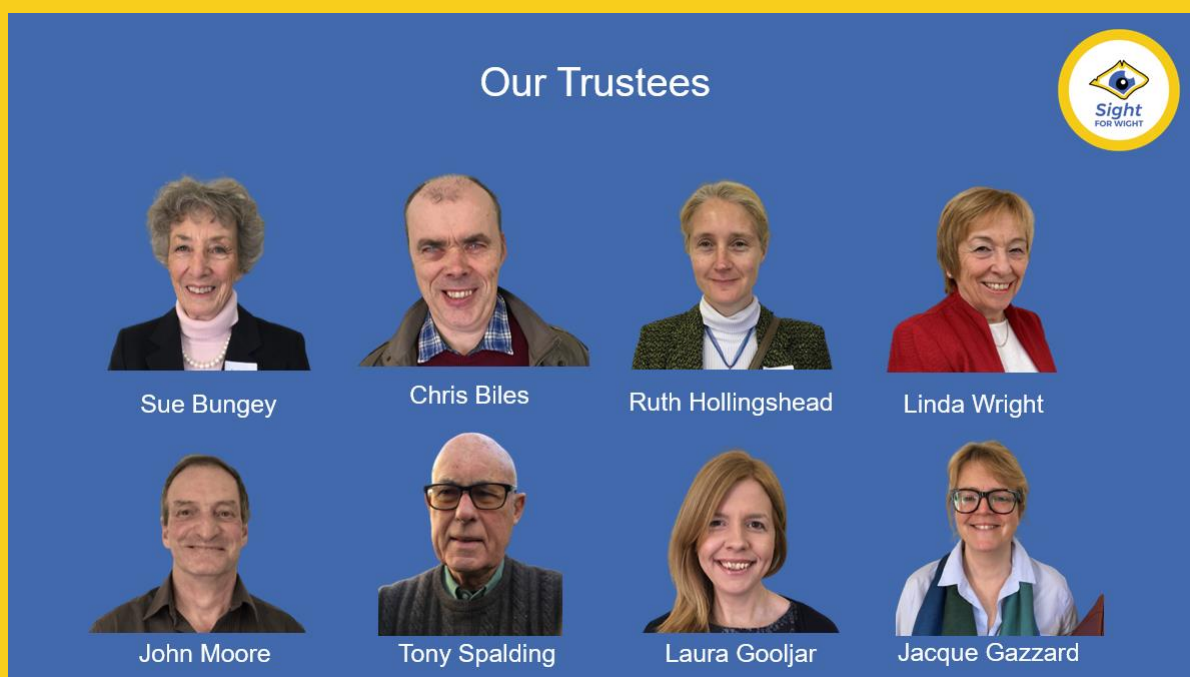




# Structure, Governance and Management

## OUR TRUSTEES, ADVISORS AND MANAGEMENT

Our Board of eight trustees is made up as follows:



### Registered Office

Millbrooke House, 137 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, PO30 1DD

**Company / Charity registration number 6240404 / 1149415**

**Accountants and Independent Examiner - Morris Crocker**

Station House, 50 North Street, Havant, Hants PO9 1QU

**Bankers - Co-operative Bank PLC**

PO Box 101, 1 Bolton Street, Manchester, M60 4EP

**Investment Managers - Charles Stanley and Co. Ltd**

Vadatech House, Hounsdown Business Park Southampton SO40 9LR

**Our Chief Executive Officer - Lisa Hollyhead F.C.A. BA(Hons)**



## **OUR GOVERNANCE**

**The Charity's objects** ("the Objects") are the support of (i) blind and partially sighted persons and (ii) persons with other sensory loss, resident in the Isle of Wight in such ways as the Directors from time to time think fit and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing in the following ways:

- (a) the provision of facilities for education, recreation, training and employment;
- (b) the promotion of the wellbeing of such persons including the financial assistance of those in need;
- (c) in promoting the awareness of the needs of such persons amongst the general public.

The Isle of Wight Society for the Blind is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The liability of each Guarantor Member in the event of winding up is limited to £10. The Trustees are Guarantor Members of the Charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no legal beneficial interest in the Charity. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission.

The Directors of the charitable company are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees. New Trustees are recruited through an open recruitment process, against a role description / skills matrix to ensure they have the skills to undertake their role and during the year Linda Wright and Tony Spalding were appointed as Trustees at the AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Further during the year Christina Conroy resigned as a Trustee effective 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023.



Trustees nominate the Chair as set out in the merged Memorandum and Articles of Association. Trustees have the power to co-opt further members to fill specialist roles or to appoint to fill vacancies that occur between Annual General Meetings.

Trustees are appointed for three years and may stand for re-election by all Guarantor Members at the Annual General Meeting and serve for a further three years before seeking re-election. The Board of Trustees must number at least seven and is not subject to any maximum.

Between April 2022 and March 2023, it met formally eight in addition to the AGM held in December 2022. All meetings were quorate. There is a sub-committee for human resource that meets as required, but at least annually to review the pay policy for staff.

### **Trustee Induction and Training**

New Trustees have an induction programme to ensure familiarity with The Isle of Wight Society for the Blind's services and policies. This includes a briefing on their legal obligations under Charity and Company Law; Charity Commission Guidance on governance and the content of Sight for Wight's Memorandum and merged Articles of Association. Induction also offers the opportunity to meet key employees, explore committee and decision-making processes and review the strategic plan and financial performance of the Charity.

Trustees are offered opportunities to enable them to develop in their governance role through internal and external training events. An Annual Skills audit review is undertaken and Trustee personal qualities review, and vacant Trustees positions are then recruited for.



The Board of Trustees complete an annual review of the CEO along with the Chair. Pre-written questions are used to ensure all human resources, strategic and tactical points are covered.

## **Delegation**

The Trustees delegate the day-to-day management, the development of strategy and overall leadership of the Charity to the CEO. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive Officer has delegated authority, within the terms approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance and employment.

## **Related Parties**

None of the Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the Charity. They give their time freely. Any connection between Trustee or senior personnel of the Charity and a related party must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees. In the current year, no such related party transactions were reported. Conflicts of interest are monitored through a record of interests and declarations at each Trustee meeting.

## **Principle Risks**

The Trustees reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. A wider risk register was established in August 2017 and is reviewed annually in August and, where appropriate, systems and procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the Charity faces.

The risk management process itself is periodically reviewed to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the Charity. Risks are minimised by the implementation of internal controls with procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. External risks to the anticipated decline in donations received through legacies have led to the plans to diversify income generation.



**Diversity of the Board** Having a range of perspectives and living experiences on the board, helps the board to remain innovative, relatable and agile to adapt to changing environments. A diverse board contains a broader mix of skills, knowledge and experience which should give it greater flexibility to overcome challenges. With the board, having already committed to building inclusive cultures and practices, follows these stated Equality, Inclusion and Diversity principles.

- Developing trust and respect, when there's a opinion difference.
- Prioritise active listening.
- Chair completes and takes time during onboarding and completes annual reviews with each Trustee.
- Regular reviews of skills and diversity on our board. This does involve monitoring protected characteristics, such as age, gender and ethnicity as well as other characteristics such as living with experience for example.
- Being accountable for performance against Budgets, Strategy and other performance goals.

During the annual review of our Governance, it was decided to add for 2024 a review of our Chair by all Trustees.

This year saw the retirement of a longstanding Trustee, Paul Rutherford and the Chair wishes to express her sincere thanks to him for his decade of service to the Charity. Further, our Chair celebrated a milestone birthday, and a party was held in her honour.

The Trustees thank every supporter, volunteer, staff member and every person involved in the Charity, leading the Isle of Wight's oldest Charity is nothing less than a privilege.

**Chairman**  
**Sue Bungey**



## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

### **TO THE TRUSTEES OF ISLE OF WIGHT SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 47 to 63.

#### **Responsibilities and Basis of Report**

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

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

#### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or



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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Underwood', is positioned above the printed name.

**Paul Underwood – Director**  
For and on behalf of  
Morris Crocker,  
Station House,  
50 North Street,  
Havant,  
PO9 1QU

Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Year to 31 March 2023	Year to 31 March 2022
		£	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>			
Incoming resources from generated funds Voluntary income	2	26,571	150,434
Activities for generating funds Fundraising Income	3	16,075	12,128
Income from charitable activities	6	212,288	32,443
Investment income	5	8,735	7,280
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>263,669</b>	<b>202,285</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Costs of generating funds Fundraising costs	7	49,641	49,424
Charitable Activities	8	289,435	132,694
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>339,076</b>	<b>182,118</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>(75,407)</b>	<b>20,167</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>			
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		(21,649)	9,063
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	18	<b>(97,056)</b>	<b>29,230</b>
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2022		832,588	803,358
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2023		735,532	832,588

The notes on pages 62 to 75 part of these accounts



## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

For the financial year in question, the company was entitled to exemption under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

	Notes	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
		£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible asset	13	493,235	358,408
Fixed asset investments	14	150,995	224,821
Investments	15	1	1
		<b>644,231</b>	<b>583,230</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stock		1,425	1,804
Debtors	16	32,557	54,980
Cash at bank and in hand		74,881	199,222
		<b>108,863</b>	<b>256,006</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Amount falling due in less than one year	17	(17,562)	(6,648)
		<b>91,301</b>	<b>249,358</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>			
		<b>735,532</b>	<b>832,588</b>
<b>Total assets less current Liabilities</b>			
		<b>735,532</b>	<b>832,588</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>735,532</b>	<b>832,588</b>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
<b>Unrestricted</b>			
General funds	18	647,532	707,588
Designated funds	18	88,000	125,000
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>		<b>735,532</b>	<b>832,588</b>
Restricted funds	19	-	-
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>735,532</b>	<b>832,588</b>



## **BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED) AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

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

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

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which 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 company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit and loss 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 company.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 15<sup>TH</sup> December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

.....  
Sue Bungey (Chairman)

The notes on pages 62 to 75 part of these accounts



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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### 1. Summary of significant accounting policies

#### (a) General information and basis of preparation

Isle of Wight Society for the Blind is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 52 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are described on page 53.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the Charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The charity also manages the assets held within an unincorporated charity (registered number 1149415), the assets of which were the subject of a scheme of management by the Charity Commission. The assets of that charity were amalgamated in 2013 with the assets of this Charitable company, and are reported as one entity in these accounts.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

#### (b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

### **(c) Income recognition**

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the Charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained, then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity, and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable; it can be measured reliably, and the Charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity. For example, the amount the Charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

Where practicable, gifts in kind donated for distribution to the beneficiaries of the Charity are included in stock and donations in the financial statements upon receipt. If it is impracticable to assess the fair value at receipt or if the costs to undertake such a valuation outweigh any benefits, then the fair value is recognised as a component of donations when it is distributed, and an equivalent amount recognised as charitable expenditure.

Fixed asset gifts in kind are recognised when receivable and are included at fair value. They are not deferred over the life of the asset.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.



## **NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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Income from grants is recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met; it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met, then these amounts are deferred.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and property. It includes dividends, interest and rent. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend and rent income is recognised as the charity's right to receive payment is established.

Other income includes the conversion of endowment funds into income which arises when capital funds are released to an income fund from expendable endowments or when a charity has authority to adopt a total return approach to its permanent endowment fund. It also includes other income such as gains on disposals of tangible fixed assets.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

### **d) Expenditure recognition**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties; it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes events;
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes lettings and functions, car parking, grounds costs, house preservation, and grants; and
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

### **(e) Support costs allocation**

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management.



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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carried out at Headquarters. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Premises and other overheads have been allocated in a similar basis.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 9 to these accounts.

### **(f) Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Freehold property	2% straight line
Fixtures and Fittings	10%, 15% and 25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

The Charity's assets consist of land and property originally conveyed by gift to the Local Authority in 1929 and were passed to this charity by a scheme of management. The Grounds are managed in permanent endowment, and these assets are held at nil cost.

### **(g) Investment properties**

Investment properties for which fair value can be measured reliably without undue cost or effort are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA. The Lodge property is held with a view to being re-let at market rent, and is included at market value with no amortisation.

### **(h) Investments**

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.



## **NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

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Current asset investments are short-term highly liquid investments and are held at fair value. These include cash on deposit and cash equivalents with a maturity of less than one year.

### **(i) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year**

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

### **(j) Impairment**

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

### **(k) Employee benefits**

When employees have rendered service to the Charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The Charity operates a defined contribution plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

### **(l) Tax**

The Charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010

### **(m) Going concern**

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The Trustees have also considered the impact of Covid-19 on income forecasts for 2022 and 2023 and its effect on the Charity's activities. With the stated free reserves at the year-end of £154,297 (2022 - £187,717), and the support of programmes to mitigate the financial effects of the pandemic, the Charity's forecasts and budgets have been amended. The Trustees are confident that it remains appropriate to prepare financial statements on a going concern basis.



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### (n) Cash flow statement

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No. 1 from producing a cash flow statement.

### (o) Trading subsidiary

The accounts are not consolidated but a summary of the trading company figures are shown in note 4.

## 2. Donations and legacies

	Total Funds Year to 31 March 2023 £	Total Funds Year to 31 March 2022 £
Gifts and donations	9,116	6,217
Legacies (see below)	5,000	129,676
Collecting boxes	2,145	1,329
Donation from trading subsidiary	<u>10,310</u>	<u>13,212</u>
	26,571	150,434
	=====	=====

Of the comparative figure £150,434, £10,000 was restricted income.

Legacies received included in the above, are as follows:

Donor	2023	2022
Mr Lane	5,000	
Mrs E D L Arendorffe		2,201
Douglas Henry Jones		120,166
Legacey		2,096
Phyllis Wright		2,190
Roy Joliffe		2,023
Betty Rayner		500
Sylvia Damant		500
	<b>£5,000</b>	<b>£129,676</b>



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Year to 31/03/2023 £	Year to 31/03/2022 £
<b>3. Fundraising income</b>		
Fundraising events	4,360	4,907
Room hire	1,930	710
Other	<u>9,785</u>	<u>6,511</u>
	<b>£16,075</b>	<b>£12,128</b>
	=====	=====

### 4. Subsidiary Trading Company

The Charity also has a trading subsidiary company, which is itself limited by guarantee, but which operates functions within the House for the Charity. The accounts are not consolidated, but reflect the monies due from the profits of the Trading Company. A summary of the trading results of the Company is set out below:

	Year to 31/03/2023 £	Year to 31/03/2022 £
<b>Summary Profit and loss</b>		
Gross Income	48,612	44,406
Costs	<u>(38,302)</u>	<u>(31,194)</u>
Profit	10,310	13,212
	=====	=====
<b>Summary of Reserves</b>		
Accumulated of reserves	1	1
Profit for the year	10,310	13,212
Donated surplus to the charity	<u>(10,310)</u>	<u>(13,212)</u>
Accumulated profits Carried forward	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	1	1
	=====	=====



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 5. Investment income

	Total Funds 31/03/2023 £	Total Funds 31/03/2022 £
Income from listed investments	8,735	7,280
	=====	=====

### 6. Income from Charitable Activities

	Total funds 31/03/2023 £	Total funds 31/03/2022 £
Income from brailing	1,388	820
Sensory Support Rehabilitation	194,600	-
Income from aids and equipment	2,500	603
Income from activities	<u>13,800</u>	<u>31,020</u>
	212,288	32,443
	=====	=====

### 7. Fundraising costs

	Total Funds Year to 31/03/2023 £	Total Funds Year to 31/03/2022 £
Investment management costs	2,216	2,126
Fundraising event costs	1,722	2,266
Staff cost	24,748	24,936
Allocation of support costs	<u>20,955</u>	<u>20,096</u>
	49,641	49,424
	=====	=====

## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 8. Charitable activities costs

	Total Funds Year to 31/03/2023 £	Total Funds Year to 31/03/2022 £
Charitable activities costs	50,922	22,144
Staff cost	189,619	63,660
Allocation of support costs	<u>48,894</u>	<u>46,890</u>
	289,435	132,694
	=====	=====

Of the comparative total, £400 was in respect of restricted activity expenditure.

### 9. Support and Governance costs

	Year to 31/03/2023 £	Year to 31/03/2022 £
Staff costs	16,454	28,942
Premises	11,282	6,120
Insurance	4,676	3,282
Management and professional support	24,211	14,556
Depreciation	<u>11,366</u>	<u>12,284</u>
	67,989	65,184
<b>Governance:</b>		
Independent examiners remuneration	1,800	1,800
Accountancy and support	<u>60</u>	<u>0</u>
	69,849	66,984
	=====	=====
<b>Allocation of Support and Governance costs:</b>		
Fundraising costs	20,955	20,095
Charitable activities cost	<u>48,894</u>	<u>46,889</u>
	69,849	66,984
	=====	=====



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The allocation of support and governance costs are pro-rata based on the expenditure of each cost heading to the overall expenditure in the year. Non support staff costs have been allocated directly, and as a result the comparative has been amended for comparability.

### 10. Net incoming/(outgoing) resources

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	Year to 31/03/2023 £	Year to 31/03/2022 £
Independent examiners fee	1,800	1,800
Depreciation – owned assets	11,366	12,284
	=====	=====

### 11. Trustees' remuneration, benefits and expenses

There were no trustees that received any remuneration for their services and expenses were reimbursed during the year of £Nil (2022 - £Nil)

### 12. Staff costs

	Year to 31/03/2023 £	Year to 31/03/2022 £
Wages and salaries	235,402	139,407
Employers pension costs	3,470	1,900
Social security costs	<u>11,944</u>	<u>9,129</u>
	250,816	150,436
	=====	=====

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

Total individuals employed by the charity	15	11
Full time equivalent staff	<u>9.4</u>	<u>6.3</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 13. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Property £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Motor Vehicle £	Total £
Cost at 1 April 2022	400,000	144,258	19,133	563,391
Additions	<u>146,138</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>146,138</u>
As at 31 March 2023	<u>546,138</u> =====	<u>144,258</u> =====	<u>19,133</u> =====	<u>709,529</u> =====
Depreciation at 1 April 2022	57,021	138,259	9,703	204,983
Charge for the period	<u>8,000</u>	<u>953</u>	<u>2,358</u>	<u>11,311</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>65,021</u> =====	<u>139,212</u> =====	<u>12,061</u> =====	<u>216,294</u> =====
Net Book Value at 31 March 2023	<u>481,117</u> =====	<u>5,046</u> =====	<u>7,072</u> =====	<u>493,235</u> =====
Net Book Value at 31 March 2022	<u>342,979</u> =====	<u>5,999</u> =====	<u>9,430</u> =====	<u>358,408</u> =====

The original cost of the premises was £572,293 and has been subject to impairments to current market value in 2012 and 2015.

### 14. Fixed asset investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Market value at 1 April 2022	217,167	201,777
Additions	24,156	13,737
Disposals	(90,557)	(7,409)
Change in value of investments	<u>(21,667)</u>	<u>9,063</u>
Market value investments at 31 March 2023	129,099	217,168
Cash funds, held by investment managers	<u>21,896</u>	<u>7,653</u>
<b>Total investment portfolio</b>	<u>150,995</u> =====	<u>224,821</u> =====



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The following individual investments outlined above represent more than 5% of the portfolio's total market value:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Schroder Unit trust	9.76%	6.10%
Black Rock Fund managers Ltd	7.06%	7.23%
Artemis fund managers	12.08%	7.51%
Temple Bar investment Trust	8.95%	5.14%
Bankers Investment Trust	7.82%	7.25%
M&G securities Limited	0.0%	7.26%
RIT Capital partners	7.440%	5.67%
HICL infrastructure Plc	0.0%	4.75%
Ninetyone fund manager UK Ltd	0.0%	7.41%
Rathbone Ethical Bond Fund	6.39%	0.00%
Aberdeen Equity Income Trust PLC	6.42%	0.00%
Lowland Investment Co	6.74%	0.00%

### 15. Investments

	<b>31/03/2023</b>	<b>31/03/2022</b>
	£	£
Investment in subsidiary company	1	1
	==	==

The Charity owns the entire issued share capital consisting of 1 ordinary share of £1 of the trading subsidiary, Millbrooke Enterprise CIC. Millbrooke Enterprises CIC was incorporated on 20 February 2016 and trades in support of the Isle of Wight Society for the Blind.

### 16. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	<b>31/03/2023</b>	<b>31/03/2022</b>
	£	£
Trade debtors	7,894	-
Amounts owing from trading subsidiary company	21,803	47,748
Other debtors and prepayments	<u>2,860</u>	<u>7,232</u>
	32,557	54,980
	=====	=====

### 17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	<b>31/03/2023</b>	<b>31/03/2022</b>
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,220	2,908
Taxation and social security	12,542	1,940
Other creditors and accruals	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,800</u>
	17,562	6,648
	=====	=====

## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 18. Movement in funds

	At 01/04/2022 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/03/2023 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
<b>Designated funds:</b>				
Maintenance (Millbrooke House)	£50,000	-	£(20,000)	£30,000
Retail Unit	£170,000	-	£(150,000)	£20,000
<b>Aspirational designated funds for</b>				
Hello Everyone QR code	£27,000	-	£(1,000)	£26,000
2020 education programme	£24,000	-	£(12,000)	£12,000
<b>Total designated funds</b>	<b>£271,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£(183,000)</b>	<b>£88,000</b>
General unrestricted funds	£561,588	£(97,056)	£183,000	£647,532
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£832,588</b>	<b>£(97,056)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£735,532</b>

Restricted funds are provided by way of donations to assist with funding of equipment to assist the visually impaired.

### 19. Related party transactions

The charity is under the control of the Trustees. During the year the Charity's held a working capital loan with the trading company with expenses paid by the Charity for and on behalf of the trading company of £26,771 (2022 £34,536). Millbrooke Enterprises CIC made a distribution in the period to the parent charity of £10,310 (2022: £13,212), and the balance outstanding at the year end was £21,803 (2022: £47,748.)

There were no other related party transactions.



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### 20. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities

In line with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice, presented below is the full comparative Statement of Financial Activities.

	<b>Total Funds 31 03 2022 £</b>
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>	
Incoming resources from generated funds	
Voluntary income	150,434
Activities for generating funds	
Fundraising Income	12,128
Income from charitable activities	<u>32,443</u>
Investment income	7,280
<b>Total income</b>	202,285 =====
<b>Expenditure on:</b>	
Fundraising costs	49,424
Charitable activities	<u>132,694</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	182,118 =====
Net income/(expenditure)	20,167
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>	
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	<u>9,063</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>29,230</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>	
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2022	803,358 =====
<b>Total funds carried forward 31 March 2023</b>	<b>832,588 =====</b>



## **WIGHT SENSE**

01983 240222 - [info@wightsense.org.uk](mailto:info@wightsense.org.uk)

## **SIGHT FOR WIGHT**

01983 522205 - [enquiries@iwsb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@iwsb.org.uk)

Millbrooke House  
137 Carisbrooke Road  
Newport  
Isle of Wight  
PO30 1DD

Website: [www.sightforwight.org.uk](http://www.sightforwight.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sight4wight/](http://www.facebook.com/sight4wight/)

## **DRESS FOR LESS**

01983 523197 - [retail@iwsb.org.uk](mailto:retail@iwsb.org.uk)

114 St James Street  
Newport  
Isle of Wight  
PO30 5HB

Facebook: search for Dress for Less Group



**ISLE OF WIGHT SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND**

England & Wales - Charity number 1149415

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# Accounts

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# Sight for Wight

The Isle of Wight Society for the Blind  
Annual Report and Accounts  
For the Year ended  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

Registered Charity 1149415  
Company Limited by Guarantee Number 6240404



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## Welcome from our Chair, Sue

A warm welcome to everyone. We present our annual report and accounts for the Isle of Wight Society for the Blind, known as Sight for Wight. We are the Isle of Wight charity offering help, support and advice to people living with all levels of Sight Loss.



During this, my fourth year as Chair of the Board of Trustees, we have continued to embed the 2020 Strategy into our work and have ensured that everything we do has our members as its focus.

The year started, still in so much uncertainty, our members were finally able to return to our centre in July 2021. It continued to be an extremely challenging time for our members, many of whom have self-isolated for over 15 months. Social distancing is simply impossible if your vision does not allow for it, and for those using touch to guide themselves, the fear of contracting the virus was extremely real.

We support just under 670 Visually Impaired Island residents. They have both varying levels of sight loss and are at very different stages of their sight loss journey. Embedding our 2020 strategy, we treat each member as an individual and their own goals are put at the forefront of everything we do.

Without the commitment of our team of volunteers, staff and trustees, the generous ongoing donations from our supporters and the direct feedback from our members, we would not be able to offer the breadth and extent of service that we do. Thank you to every person who has, and will, contribute to us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S.P. Bungey".

**Sue Bungey - Chair of the Trustees**



## Welcome from our CEO, Lisa



My second year as CEO of this historic Charity, I am honoured to be at the helm as our new 2020 strategy has really taken shape.

By July 2021 we were finally able to really open the centre again and it brought tears to the eyes of every member of staff when we had our first open house event.



We welcomed over 120 members into Millbrooke House, the sun shone and we could not have asked for a more perfect day. By 2pm every inch of the House and grounds was filled with laughter smiles and genuinely happy people. For me the nicest aspect was you could have walked in and not even realised that the vast majority of the people there, could not see each other and all of this only made possible by our marvellous team of both staff and volunteers.

This year we certainly have felt the benefits of our mammoth 2020 task of calling every single member one by one. These calls allowed us to reconnect with people on a really personal level. The result, attendance at clubs (for those feeling medically safe to interact) has escalated beyond our wildest expectations. For those activities where people still felt it was too close contact, we were able to gain grant funding from Sport England to keep the activities going until



such a time as attendance could naturally rise again, thank you Sport England.

Other grants we received this year included two grants from the Isle of Wight Council. The staff at the Council were so supportive, they listened to us, they took time to understand the impact of the pandemic on our members and what, as a Charity, we were trying to do to help our members return to the outside world.

One of the grants received allowed us to purchase our own car so we could provide door to door transport for our members, such an important service to offer on such a beautiful, but rural Island.



The second grant proved vital funding for the continuation of our Member Support Officer, originally planned for four months, we were able to extend it to nine months with the support of this grant. The remainder of this grant was used to continue to fund the expansion of the befriending program allowing the one paid member of staff to work three days instead of two for a six further months. This gave time to continue to recruit more volunteers as the service demand exceeded beyond anything we could have predicted.

The services resulting from the grant we received in 2020 from the National Lottery being **A Friend in Need** and our Alexa Sight for Wight skill, have continued to flourish after the funding ended. The befriending service was estimated to offer weekly calls to around 40 members based on the success of our services around the country, by the year end we had over 65 people registered on the service, all enjoying regular and seemingly vital contact from our volunteer callers. A good proportion of our volunteers are themselves VI members. This equates to a 50% increase in predicted outcomes.



**Our Alexa Skill** was awarded an ‘excellence’ award on its launch by Amazon, something we could not be prouder of. A huge thank you to Jonathan from Talking Newspapers Ltd who completed all the coding for us and made the skill so accessible. He listened to every suggestion that was made, the result is a telephone based and an Alexa based skill. This saw our members migrate from USB sticks to voice enabled control of their own funded Alexa device.

We chose to fund the ‘echo’ show devices and the Lottery understood why, with the camera feature the “What am I holding” skill has proved invaluable to members. They can hold any item with text up to Alexa and she will read out labelling to confirm what the item is, such a simple feature in this day of text to speech but so valuable.



Soon, of course, members realised they could simply say Alexa call “Betty” and she will oblige. To watch people really thoroughly engage with Alexa has sent heart felt joy throughout our team. Dorothy, has daily chats with her Alexa, *“I ask her all sorts and she always has the answers, it’s like having someone else always there.”*

**SCAN &  
LISTEN**



Our **Hello Everyone QR Codes** have gone from strength to strength, thought of by our CEO the codes have two purposes, firstly turning the written word into audio (now in 10 different languages) and secondly to allow VI people to enter an area with confidence and independence. But the crucial factor with these codes is keeping costs down.



We sell them to organisations for as little as £50 for a three-year license and, of course, VI people still make each and every code to ensure they offer the best possible support.

Our codes are in every Hampshire Police Station and Island ferry ports and we have two big new contracts secured by the year end with the Isle of Wight Council and Solent Enterprise.

Our everyday **member activities and services** continue to expand as we always seek feedback on everything we offer to ensure it is a quality service that is needed and indeed not offered by other organisations. Duplicating precious resource is something I am very keen to avoid.



Our bi-monthly **Newsletter**, which received funding from Independent Age in 2020, has grown into such a different publication. It is now packed with so much information, helpful articles and our members actively contribute with their lived experience. During the year we have received a record level of feedback, donations and ‘thank yous!’

With the **Audio Library** celebrating 50+ years and the **Talking News** celebrating 45+ years, they continue to attract new users proving their value. In our 2021 survey on the Talking News we received a staggering 67% response rate.

Our **Education program** which teaches Island primary school children about avoidable sight loss and good eye health has flourished. We produced a video to introduce the concept of the program that will be sent out to schools to be played on midsummer day in June 2022.





Our **Working partnerships** continue to expand as we 100% believe if someone else is doing it well; signpost, do not replicate. We all have limited resource and time and following one of our principle objectives, we need to employ all resources efficiently and effectively.

We continue to receive updates from our service partners and sit on a new Hampshire and Isle of Wight VI charities board, this allows us to share updates quickly and concisely.

During the year we bid and successfully were awarded the Isle of Wight Council Sensory Service contract, to offer habitation service to people living with hearing and sight impairments. The contract commences on 01 April 2022, further details later in this report.

In 2020 we relaunched our bequests policy and information. We have seen some very generous donations this year which have been vital in continuing our work. We want to make sure the families who distribute these bequests, understand just how valued they are. Thank you to each and every person, honestly thank you.

In summary, 2021/2022 has certainly proven easier than the previous year, but the long-term effects of COVID are being felt not least in missed eye appointments and very scared people still feeling they cannot return to the new normal.

Having lived with 88% sight loss since birth and with progressive hearing loss, I naturally use my own experience, but I know fundamentally every single person, regardless of whether or not they are living with sight loss, is an individual and deserves to be treated as one.

*Lisa Hollyhead*

**Lisa Hollyhead - Chief Executive Officer**





## Trustees' Report – A Strategic Approach

The Trustees are pleased to present their Annual Directors' Report, together with the financial statements of Sight for Wight for the year ending 31 March 2022.

With the Centre finally reopening in July 2021 it was incredible to welcome the members back. Things were still rather strange but our members Open Day attracted over 120 people in person and our Treasurer cooked a marvellous BBQ for us all to enjoy.

We have increased our range of services to meet the strategic aims identified in our 2020 Strategy. We have reached out with an Island-wide collaborative approach to provide the best possible services to our members with efficient use of resources.

It is a strong belief of the Trustees that working with the wider community will produce the best results for our members. We should all play to our strengths and allow others more capable to fulfil our weaker areas. Our core aims are:

- To identify the needs of people living with and affected by Sight Loss.
- Develop an Isle of Wight network to fulfil them.
- To raise funds, sufficient to maintain service in the long-term, and deploy all resources efficiently and responsibly.
- To invest in our team of staff, volunteers and members for long-term benefit to everyone involved.

As part of this when the Isle of Wight Sensory Service contract came up for renewal, the Trustees had several meetings and did a thorough review to see if it would be of benefit to our members to take on this contract. The Trustees unanimously agreed adding the sensory contract would mean we could offer the entire service to our members and this would enhance the services we could offer them. One consideration was keeping the service on the Island so that ferry costs did not hinder service availability as our overall aim is to offer the right help at the right time to our clients and members.



Further, as many of our older members also live with age related hearing loss, the dual sensory nature of the service would add further benefit to our members and better equip all staff to help them.



To ensure our sustainability, we have continued a rigorous financial review of all expenditure, and the attached financial statements show a positive addition to reserves, for the third year. Our fundraising and awareness is growing and the Charity continues to go from strength to strength.

The Trustees continue to monitor the Charity's reserves, ensuring their low-risk strategy is adhered to and including a review of the portfolios manager.

The Board of Trustees wish to thank each and every member of staff, volunteers, supporters, and most importantly, charity members for their support, help and honest feedback on services. This makes it possible for Sight for Wight to continue to support people on an individual basis throughout their sight loss journey.

*S.P. Bungey*

**Sue Bungey**  
Chair of Trustees

*Christina Conroy*

**Christina Conroy**  
Treasurer





## The Whole Team

Firmly embedded into the philosophy of Sight for Wight is our strategic aim namely ***to invest in our team of staff, volunteers and members for long-term benefit to everyone involved.***

### Staff

Our staff were all very pleased to finally be able to work face to face again with members following the centre re opening in July 2021.



We all have our roles, but everyone in our team knows what everyone else does, this ensures members get consistent and responsive communication and the training undergone in the year really has meant that our advice is clear, current and correct.

In addition to refresher training with our associate organisations, this year we have all undergone training with our local Eye Clinic at St Marys hospital. This was an update on the CVI application, the low vision aid clinic and the overall process and timings people can expect. It is very important for us to help in managing people's expectations in their low vision journey and training like this helps. Our CEO also sits on IWOS (Isle of Wight Opticians Society) and



attended their larger annual event to talk about what the Charity does and how we can help individuals.

The staff all understand that without the feedback of members and the tireless support of volunteers we simply could not offer the level and diverse nature of support and activities that we do.

## **Volunteers – The Trustees**

Sight for Wight's team of eight trustees worked tirelessly attending our bi-monthly main board meetings, supporting individual staff on specific projects, advising on lobbying, making new introductions and both raising awareness and vital funds.

The Board includes two severely sight impaired Trustees and one sight impaired but, all the Board, have a personal experience of severe sight loss through a close family member or friend giving true empathy towards our members.

## **Volunteers**

With a small staff team, much of what we do can only be achieved with the tremendous support, so generously given, by our volunteers. They support all areas of our operations, in facilitating and delivering member activities, education, fundraising, administration and governance.



Whilst we sadly have to say goodbye to people, we always celebrate the work they have done for us and thank all volunteers for their continued help and support. Equally we welcome new people who bring fresh ideas and experiences.



Our usual annual summer celebration to thank volunteers was extremely well attended with almost half of our volunteers attending. The weather and beautifully restored gardens brought so much joy to everyone.



At the start of the year, our volunteer numbers were 70 and, by the end of the year, had increased this to 82, 35 below pre-pandemic numbers and certainly a different mix with many volunteers working remotely.



## ONE VOLUNTEER STORY - MEET STEVE McDEVITT

*Hi everyone, I'm Steve, and I've been volunteering with Sight for Wight as a reader and recorder with the Talking News since 2016. I'm originally from Glasgow. I moved to the Island in 2007, after a short spell living in Lymington and working at the BBC office in Southampton.*



*As Talking News listeners will be only too aware, even after 15 years here, I still haven't quite got the hang of the Isle of Wight accent, with my Glesga twang still very much in evidence.*



*I live in Cowes with my partner Clare and our dog Ollie, a Segugio Italiano, who in a previous life was a hunting dog in Cyprus, before we adopted him, via a rescue charity just over a year ago. He's settled in pretty well, although he won't put his nose outside over the door if there's a drop of rain in the air, so he clearly still has some acclimatising to do.*

*My "day job" is in a related field to my efforts for the Talking News. I work in what is known as access services - rendering television accessible to people with hearing impairments via subtitles, and vision impairments via audio description.*

*The company I work for, Red Bee Media, produces audio description for most British terrestrial TV channels, which may have helped you to enjoy your favourite TV programmes by describing what is portrayed on screen in the spaces in between the dialogue. The part of my job that I enjoy most is live subtitling – that is producing subtitles for things which are unfolding in real-time – news bulletins, live sports commentaries and the BBC Parliament channel and News Channel.*

*We do this using voice recognition software and a technique called 'respeaking.' This involves listening to the dialogue of a TV broadcast, repeating it into a microphone, inserting punctuation, as you might have done when dictating a letter to your secretary, whilst editing out any faltering, stuttering or repetition. We also have to watch for any bloopers that the voice recognition software gets wrong and issue a correction, if there's time to do so.*

*This creates a stream of text that other software turns into the subtitles you see on your TV. So please spare a thought for your hard-pressed subtitler if the subtitles are slightly delayed - there's a lot going on to get*



*them on the screen at any given moment! Subtitles for pre-recorded shows like EastEnders are prepared in advance, which is why they are more accurate and do not suffer from delays.*

*When I'm not busy doing all of that, I'm at my happiest walking the dog, or racking up the miles between pub and café stops on our beautiful island on my bike. As well as numerous cycling holidays over the years, I've also done a couple of long charity bike rides from my native Scotland – one which took me back “home” to the IOW and another which saw me roll on as far as Lisbon.*

*Thank you, Sight for Wight, for allowing me to Volunteer, it truly brings to life the need and point to my work, it reminds me every time I visit how important my job is to those who rely on it.*

***Steve*** Steve McDevitt

## **Members**

Serving our members is at the forefront of everything we do, it is why we are here.

I am so pleased this year to be able to fill this report with photos of face to face activities and services.

### **Our weekly / monthly activities**

**Weekly Swimming** where we hire the pool for our members exclusive use, celebrating 23 years this year our members cannot express the freedom they feel in water with enough space to enjoy a true sense of relaxed exercise.



**Coffee and Chat** mornings, both at our Newport centre and across the Island, are an absolute wealth of lived experience for people to relate to. We also attend outreach services across the community to tell people about the services we offer and give on the spot advice and support to people.

**Craft Sessions** enjoyed by our older members where they re-learn skills adjusting to their new sight levels and enjoy day trips out. When COVID hit, this was the most missed group as many of the members only outing from home was this group with door to door transport.



As an extension of the Craft group there was a demand for a social lunch, so the monthly club was born, again with the vital door to door transport arranged and enough volunteers to offer the sighted guide support people value so highly.



At **Striders** we provide 1-2-1 sighted guide support for members, often accompanied by several both pet and guide dogs, on walks of up to seven miles, always ending in a pub lunch. For those less mobile we have **Strollers** for one to five miles and **Millbrooke Milers** for under one mile. Again, the freedom of enjoying the country side the Island has to offer should be open to everyone.



At our monthly **Golf** sessions, we hire the driving range and are very lucky a professional golfer joins us, another example of the generosity of people.

Other **new activities** for 2021 / 2022, which began towards the end of the year, included:

- Horse Riding
- Fishing
- Ten pin bowling
- Short matt bowling
- Rowing
- Tandem biking.



### Our one-off activities

As well as our weekly activities we have one off activities:









## Member Support Officer

The Board of Trustees took very seriously the real impact of COVID and released some reserves to pay for a new Member Support Officer in June 2021. This role was clearly needed as someone who can just visit members in their homes and help with whatever one to one support they need.



Part of this was helping people get back outside, not mobility training but confidence building. One member described their experience:

*Caron was due to come to my home because I wanted to think about having an Alexa to hear talking news instead of using my USB sticks, they were getting trickier to use as my arthritis gets worse. She made it so easy to use I never thought I would, my children had tried to get me one and I had always said no, but Caron was so calm and patient. She set up everything and even gave me an internet thing to plug in because I don't have any of that either.*

*But she stayed a longer and we got chatting, I eventually admitted I had not been out the house really for, well I could not remember how long. Caron just said would you like to try. I am now at the weekly craft club and a lovely lady called Bee rings me every Tuesday at 11am for a chat, I love hearing about her grand kids and she always asks me about what I have been doing. Thank you, Caron.*

## Our Newsletter

With thanks for funding from Independent Age we have been able to increase our newsletter to six productions a year. Moving from an in house black and white production in 2020 we now produce a full



colour newsletter in eight different formats for our members every two months.

In **2021/2022** the number of letters, calls and emails we received, staggered us all. We know the publication is appreciated due to the sheer volume of thanks, we are never short of content as members come forward with their lived experience or ideas for articles. Just a few examples of articles we have written this year:

- Every issue –
  - A volunteer story
  - A member story
  - At least four tips from members for daily living hacks
  - Terry's twenty teasers
  - Update from every member of staff
  
- Example of articles -
  - Moorfield's New App
  - Travelling around and off the Island for VI people
  - Isle of Wight Audio Library Services
  - Living with Charles Bonnet Syndrome
  - The new buttonless PDQ Machines
  - Be My Eyes lived experience
  - SFW drop in Low Vision clinics
  - What is Health Advocacy
  - Money Matters and how can we help
  - IWASP Scams – Isle of Wight Against Scams – included as a weekly update on our Alexa Skill too
  - Blue badges, how they work

The reach of the publication has attracted adverts in which helps hugely with the ongoing financing of it. We circulate over 800 copies.



## Our Befriending service

The lottery funding, we received in 2020 allowed our befriending service to be born. The difference with our service was that we actively engaged VI members to be the volunteer callers. Matching people with similar lived experience, conditions and age clearly worked, with the service attracting 65 members by the year end against a projected target of 40. Out of the 280 people identified as potentially needing the service, this equates to 23% take up.

We put this partly down to many people retiring to the Island, moving away from family, and finding as time passes, they are left more and more alone.

## PALS GENIE Project

Each and every one of our members is an individual. Part of what we aim to provide in life long support, is engagement with the community. We enrolled in a project called GENIE and were part of the PALS funding behind this project to give people access to local clubs and activities. Equally importantly, this project gets people to map out their friends and family with whom they engage to remind them what support is already there and help them utilise that support.

The GENIE database is a superb resource of local clubs and activities and the PALS funding allowed us to individually recruit members, go through the mapping process with them and help them find the local activities that both they and their support group could enjoy. This service was offered as an extension to the befriending service to all service users.

**BECOME A BEFRIENDER!**

**WHAT IS BEFRIENDING?**  
Befriending is a free telephone service for people who have a slight impairment. You can enjoy chatting with someone over the phone in the comfort of your own home for the purpose of companionship.

**THE BENEFITS OF BEFRIENDING**  
The results of befriending can be very significant. Befriending often provides people with a new direction in life, opens up a range of activities and leads to increased self-esteem and self confidence.

Please get in touch if you feel you would benefit from our service.

Contact Elaine Bricknell  
Email: [afriend@iwsb.org.uk](mailto:afriend@iwsb.org.uk)  
Telephone: (01983) 522205



## Our Audio Services

The Lottery Funding also allowed us to write and set up our own Alexa Skill which was awarded an Amazon Excellence award upon launch. The skill now hosts our newsletter and the weekly Talking News. This has seen the weekly USB sticks being sent out reduced from 207 to 85 with over 90 weekly listening on the skill. A huge success we are very proud of. When we started everyone said the older generation would not engage; they have!

## Our Buying Services



As identified in our survey many people struggled with online ordering for specific items, so we do it for them, it really is that simple. They tell us what equipment they are looking for, we use our Amazon, RNIB and Cobolt account with returns always available and supply them with the items taking payment when they receive them.

This service includes the large print diaries from VIP diaries, watches from Cobolt and daylight lamps from Amazon, for example. Further, when needed, Member Services Officer will visit the member at home and install it for them.

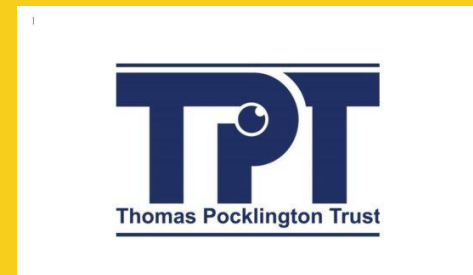
***A little extra help is often all people need.***

## Living Well with Sight Loss Course

During the year, we all attended the RNIB Living Well with Sight Loss course with a view to delivering it in-house. The course content really does give a very balanced introduction to the reality of living with Sight Loss and the chance to make it even better with local Island knowledge is a superb opportunity. Another example of working with resources others are doing extremely well, and not duplicating.



We were chosen as one of six Charities to receive a Thomas Pilkington grant to deliver this course which we are now successfully doing.



## **Member Forum**

Re-established in 2021 after the COVID break, this forum allows members to feedback directly into the Charity with their views, ideas, criticism and thoughts. Aiming to get a good cross section of age, sight loss diagnosis, experience and congenital v gained sight loss conditions. The forum also brings forward items for the Charity to lobby for and against.

The team are all very excited about the prospect of taking on the Sensory Contract from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 which will add daily living, mobility and new hearing impairment knowledge skills to our knowledge base.

## **Looking out from Lockdown**

We called out to members to join an Island wide program to make a souvenir of feelings as we all began to come out of lockdown. We provided the eye templates and members individually decorated them as an important release of many feelings they were experiencing.



## **Promoting Avoidable Sight Loss**

Sight for Wight aims to promote avoidable Sight Loss through our outreach Education Outreach Project. Finally rolled out after a delayed COVID start.



## Hello Everyone QR code

The Hello Everyone codes have two main functions:

### Entry into a building

These codes offer an audible guide covering:

- how to enter a building e.g. pull or push
- a mind's eye view of the room
- where to find the reception desk



We want people to be able to enter any building unassisted with confidence.

We have now added a feature to change the language into 10 pre-defined languages together with a written version to allow people's own devices to freely then translate. We maintain that the key to the code's success is that they are written by VI people for VI people and they sell for an average of £50 including three years hosting.

We are very aware that there are other systems emerging and indeed technology will improve but, for now, we are genuinely helping people in the here and now allowing them to use their own navigation skills, just telling them where to aim for.

During the year we confirmed a contract with the Isle of Wight Council to provide the codes for all of the Island Council buildings and with Solent Enterprise for 31 Island Gift To Nature locations.

### Turning the Written Word into Voice

Text to speech has become the norm in so many applications but often it involves expensive digital smart readers or other costs to the VI person. By scanning one of Hello Everyone QR codes users can listen to a human voice read out the content. Easily updateable



without changing the QR code and using nothing more than a mobile phone, our members can sit in a restaurant and listen to the whole menu rather than have someone give them three or four options, which is the reality of what happens otherwise.

## Lobby for the Voice of our Members

One of core aims is to ensure, as much as we can, that the needs of our members are taken account in everyday life. This year's examples include:



Working with the RNIB to give the right to a **confidential vote** to our members. Whilst plans were put in place to allow VI people to use assistive technology to help them vote independently, the results did not go far enough.

Locally basic mistakes were being made like signature guides not having the right number of holes in them to be able to vote on the cards issued. We continue with our work to resolve this working with national charities by giving local examples.

2021 saw the issuing of a **new style of PDQ** machine which has no tactile buttons. Although the obvious answer is to use contactless, the reality is, every four to six transactions the machine will ask you to input your number, a simple but impossible task if you do not know where the buttons are on the screen.



We contacted the distributor / manufacture and local PDQ providers and found in fact machines had been issued with an over lay to add a tactile guide for users and many were equipped with a sound



based VI system. Sadly, no training is given to the end user so the guides are never added and the audible guide never understood.

We continue to work to change this.



It came to our attention that the branding on the new **TESCO Fire Pit** range of food was impossible to read for anyone living with colour blindness and indeed those living with Age related Macular Degeneration. Our CEO contacted TESCO and we are delighted to report in just a few weeks the branding was changed and the colours used became readable. THANK YOU, TESCO.

The work we started in 2020 with BERYL scooters continued as we mutually advertised that anyone misusing the electric scooters should be reported and, in return, donations would be made to Sight for Wight. We are delighted to say we received very few donations.

Upon receipt of an Isle of Wight Council survey, our CEO approached them to explain that as an **inaccessible survey** they could not possibly expect to gain genuine feedback. They listened and a new Board was formed, the terms of reference were to get together people who represented a diverse range of needs and design a standard survey that took account of their needs. Work is ongoing.

A significant part of fundraising is to raise **awareness of the Charity**.



There are any ways we do this including social media, regular press releases, monthly appearances of our local radio station, our Dress Agency, advertising and most significantly being in the community.



## Finally, our promise to members remains:

- Strive to empower, providing the best possible services.
- Provide professional, expert support, guidance and skills.
- Communicate with a unified voice, ensuring individuals receive consistent messages in their preferred format.
- Always be honest and transparent.

## A MEMBER STORY - Meet Member, Eric Tuckwell

*My name is Eric Tuckwell and I have had a sight problem since I was born with glaucoma in Newport in 1950.*

*I attended the village school in Shorwell for a year before being transferred to a partially sighted school in Exeter after losing the sight in my left eye.*

*I then had another move to a school for the blind in Bristol and finished my education at college in Shrewsbury where I lost the sight in my right eye in a football related accident.*

*After leaving college I returned to the Island before training with my first guide dog in 1971. Zola is my 7th dog over the last 50 years. As jobs were hard to find here, I moved to London and lived in a hostel and found work with Whitbread's. I met Liz, the current Mrs Tuckwell, on a "blind" date and we married in August 1975 and lived in Kemsing, near Sevenoaks for the next 28 years.*

*We have two children who live in London and Cambridge and five grandchildren.*

*After being made redundant by Whitbread's, I worked for Barclays Bank in Sevenoaks and Ashford before being made redundant again*





*in 2000. We then moved back to the Isle of Wight and bought a new house in Newport.*

*I am keen to promote the use of braille and am very interested in technology, especially with my iPhone.*

*I am an enthusiastic supporter of both Charlton Athletic and Exeter City football teams and my hobbies include collecting old railway tickets; I have about 20,000 from about 6,700 different stations. I also collect railway signs and have a massive collection of model buses and vans, at least 400 of which are Island related, as well as an extensive collection of old Isle of Wight postcards.*



*I am extremely grateful to Sight for Wight for providing the Striders group for the last 15 or so years and the Swimming group for the last 25 plus years. We both very much enjoyed the open day at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club in early July and hope that more activities can restart, now that COVID restrictions are being lifted.*

***Eric* Eric Tuckwell**

## **The Real Level of Sight Loss on the Island**

- More than 6,600 people on the Island are living with Sight Loss.
- 48% of all cases of sight loss are avoidable.
- 1,050 people are registered as Sight Impaired and Severely Sight Impaired including 65 children under 16.
- There is a five-month waiting list for getting qualified emotional support to deal with deteriorating vision.



## Financial review

### Fundraising Activities

The remit of the CEO is to consider overall fundraising policy and strategy, and to oversee all fundraising activities.

Alongside this, during the year with the COVID restrictions finally lifting, the Local Fundraising Committee was re-established meeting to look at local opportunities.



Outside events during the year that we planned to attend were all cancelled and postponed due to social distancing rules still in force.

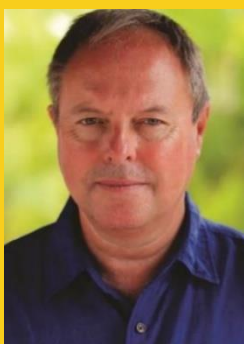
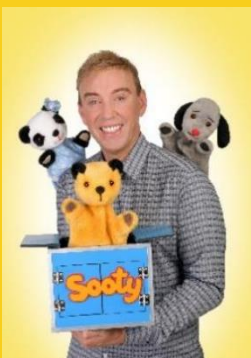
This however did not stop our local fundraising with the following campaigns undertaken:

### Annual Story Writing Competition

Started some 12 years ago by Sight for Wight patrons, RC Bridgestock, international crime writing authors, the theme this year was Vision.

As we do each year, the theme is deliberately broad to allow people to interpret it as they wish; some stories may be sight related, others may be paranormal or indeed your view of the future. Entries grew again as they have done year on year and awards had to (at the last minute) presented virtually in the awards ceremony.

It never fails to amaze the calibre of celebrities we attract to read the stories whom this year were:



Richard Cadell  
Robert Daws  
Amy Robbins  
Melvyn Hayes





## Online Campaigns

During the year we created various online campaigns, the most successful of which was the coin campaign. During Lockdown people took the time to de-clutter and tidy their houses and with the huge move to a contactless society we found our campaign was perfectly timed!

**ARE YOU A COIN HOARDER?**

Have you accumulated coins during lockdown and don't know what to do with them? Don't panic; we can help!

Donate them to us as we rely solely on fundraising, donations and legacies so anything you can do to support us is always greatly appreciated. We would be more than happy to collect them from you.

Alternatively you could drop them off at:

- Millbrooke House, 137 Carisbrooke Road, (Sat Nav PO30 1DT)
- Dress for Less, 114 St James Street, Newport

Telephone: (01983) 522205 - Email: [enquiries@iwsb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@iwsb.org.uk)

Registered charity number: 3149415 www.sightforwight.org.uk Company limited by guarantee: 6288664

## Member Led Fundraising



We also encouraged our members to join the online fundraising and Sheila took the helm on this with her 100 campaign. Each day in May 2021 she touched her toes 100 times, the best part, not only did she raise over a thousand, she carried on as part of her newfound fitness. **SUPERB EFFORT SHEILA!**

We always believe the best way to fundraise is to involve the people who benefit.

So, this year we have got our knitters working!

This project was twofold:

Firstly, to produce the handmade knitted items. Secondly, equally important, to remind members that just because their sight is failing they can knit just as well and quickly as they ever have with a few minors changes to their set up.

The range of goods included Easter Chicks, Christmas Bath Bombs, Dog Balls faces, tissue covers, mobile cases and smiling bath bombs. With funds raised well exceeding 4 figures everyone was delighted.





Our **100 Club** is also open to members and for just £2 per month they stand a chance of winning £60. We are delighted to say after an expected drop in numbers as the financial reality of COVID started to hit, by the year end numbers of entrants had been restored.

By popular demand this year saw the return of our **Christmas Fair** to Millbrooke House with funds being raised all from donated gifts, handicrafts and of course the time of our volunteers.



The final way members actively supported us was by entering our **annual raffle**. Made possible by the generosity of so many Island companies including the continued support of Clare from ASDA. The raffle again raised over four figures in funds.

Thank you to everyone involved.

Finally, a special mention to a special member who won the HUGE teddy in the **square raffle**.



### Donations by Individuals and companies

Sight for Wight is an independent local charity that depends on income from legacies, fundraising and donations and the many people who devote their time to helping us. A significant part of this fundraising comes from help from





Island Companies and organisations who choose us as their Charity of the year, grant us one off funds or send regular donations. We want to celebrate them:



**Ryde Opticians**



**Caravan and Motorhome Club**



**ASDA**

**Prizes received from:**

- Appley Manor
- ASDA - Clare Jones
- Busy Bee - Sue Brand
- College Restaurant (IW)
- Dinosaur Isle - Sue Wilkins
- Entertainer
- Hovertravel
- Isle of Wight Pearl
- Janice Ferguson
- Margaret Dilley
- Sandham Office Services
- Tesco - Jan Gibson
- Ventnor Botanic Garden
- Wight Computers Ltd
- Wight Mouse Inn

**Donations received from:**

- Misses Ward Trust
- Edgar Ralph Trust
- Spencer Howard
- Bedales School
- Medina Lodge No. 35

**Final Bequests**

Finally, but by no means least we want to thank those who have chosen to remember us in their **final Will**. These gifts bring us such joy because it means we truly have helped that person enough for them to think we are a worthy recipient of their life's works. Thank you,

All legacies are extremely valuable, and we have thanked each and every family for their loved one's bequests.



## Income and Expenditure

Sight for Wight's total income for the year stood at £202,285 compared to £324,561 in the previous year and this is a direct reflection of the grant and legacies income sourced compared to prior years.

After total expenditure of £182,118 (2021: £169,565) and surplus on investments of £9,063 (2021 surplus £35,419) the surplus for the year amounted to £29,230 (2021: surplus £204,984).

In 2020 the Trustees charged the new CEO with producing and adhering to a balanced budget to stop the previous draw on reserves, this has now been achieved for the past three years.

### Total Funds and Reserves

The total movement in funds and the net reserves of the Charity is £29,230. The charity's summary of reserves, including future plans can be summarised as follows:

<b>Total Funds per Accounts</b>	832,588
Less Restricted Funds	-
Fixed Assets	-358,408
General Funds	474,180
<b>Designated Funds</b>	
Millbrooke House maintenance	-50,000
Hello Everyone QR Codes	-27,000
Purchase of Retail unit	-170,000
2020 Education Outreach Program	-24,000
<b>Free reserves</b>	<b>£203,180</b>



Fixed assets are tied up in Millbrooke House and equipment that we need to deliver our services and activities. Funds are designated to ensure that there is adequate contingency in respect of maintenance including a modelling of the remodelling outer buildings in disrepair and a new parking area. £203,180 equates to ten months working capital based on the new year's budget.

The Charity has returned to a balanced annual budget and aspires to use designated reserves to grow and develop services for the future, including the Education Program for raising awareness of avoidable sight loss, the purchase of a retail unit to generate income for the charity and the Hello Everyone QR codes.



The Restricted Funds relate to the activities that the donors have specified. The Trustees have set aside the free reserves necessary for day-to-day working capital and to cover potential identifiable financial risks in accordance with the Charity Commission's recommendations and guidance.

## Investment Policy

The performance of the investment portfolio is regularly reviewed by the Trustees and during the year held well in volatile markets. The Trustees have confirmed to the investment manager their inexperience in financial markets and therefore given discretion to manage the portfolio within an agreed risk profile. The investment manager submits quarterly progress reports and performance is reviewed accordingly.



It holds designated funds not immediately required, in the expectation of providing a better return than that available from bank or savings accounts. The objective is to produce a balance between capital growth and income. Within the policy remit, Sight for Wight has imposed an ethical restriction not to directly invest in any company if a major part of their business could adversely affect visual impairment.

The market value of the portfolio as of 31 March 2022 was £224,821 (2021: £217,856).

## PENSION FUND

The Charity runs its own NEST pension scheme for current employees for which all contributions are up to date and paid.

*Lisa Hollyhead*

**Lisa Hollyhead - CEO**

## Our Trading Company Millbrooke Enterprises CIC



Millbrooke Enterprises CIC, established in 2015, currently generates revenue from Dress for Less, our charity boutique dress agency in St James Street, Newport.

Trade was still affected by the COVID restrictions for the period April to July, trading for the remainder of the time slowly began to grow to return to pre-pandemic levels.



## Facebook and eBay

We continued our online presence originally started during the Pandemic in the prior year. Our Facebook hit over 1,000 part way through the year and has steadily risen with items selling quickly.

The Trustees are very aware that any retail business must now have an online presence to survive and this is being worked on for future plans. This year has also seen a rise in donated items from customer which has seen a steady increase in excess income over costs.



## New branding



The new branding which was designed in the latter part of 2021 in the Island wide competition was incorporated in the year with the re launch of the shop when COVID restrictions allowed in April 2021.

The new window stickers and brand make sure customers are aware of the worthy cause they are supporting when making purchases and donations.

## Future Plans



The future of the shop continues to be continuously analysed as it exists entirely to support the Charity and must do just that, produce a worthwhile income. This said it also acts as window into the charity, supports its own volunteers and provides an outlet for some of the hand made goods made for the Charity.



During the year we managed to not only retain the majority of volunteers but also increase a further four into the team.

Without our volunteers the agency would not be possible, a very sincere thank you to everyone, not only for giving up your time but for tirelessly spreading the word and letting everyone know where they could find us.



During the year the Agency was featured on a Channel Five program boasting the benefits of buying from Dress Agencies where items are often barely, if at all, worn but sold at a fraction of the price. The recycling of clothes is clearly the way forward for the clothes industry as ideas such as renting clothes are fast taking over.

Millbrooke Enterprises CIC again generated an excess of income over expenditure during the financial year ended 31 March 2022 noting that all salary costs of the Retail Manager, employed by Sight for Wight, undertaking work on behalf of Dress for Less are recovered from Millbrooke Enterprises CIC.

Donation made to Sight for Wight 31 03 2022 £13,212

Donation made to Sight for Wight 31 03 2021 £14,228

Full accounts for the Millbrooke Enterprises CIC, Company Number 10017281, are separately reported.

*Debbie* Debbie Durbridge

**Retail Manager**



# Structure, Governance and Management

## Our Trustees, advisors and management

Our Board of eight trustees is made up as follows:



**Our Chief Executive Officer** - Lisa Hollyhead F.C.A. BA(Hons)

### Registered Office

Millbrooke House, 137 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, PO30 1DD

**Company / Charity registration number** 6240404 / 1149415

**Accountants and Independent Examiner** - Morris Crocker

Station House, 50 North Street, Havant, Hants PO9 1QU

**Bankers** - Co-operative Bank PLC

PO Box 101, 1 Bolton Street, Manchester, M60 4EP

**Investment Managers** - Charles Stanley and Co. Ltd

Vadatech Hse, Hounsdown Business Park Southampton SO40 9LR



## Our Governance

Sight for Wight is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The liability of each Guarantor Member in the event of winding up is limited to £10. The Trustees are Guarantor Members of the Charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no legal beneficial interest in the Charity. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission.

During the year a Special resolution was passed by 100% of the Guarantor Members to confirm:

*Pursuant to Chapter 2 of Part 13 of the Companies Act 2006, the following resolution is proposed as a special resolution:*

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION**

*That:*

*1.1 the Articles of Association of the Company be deleted in their entirety and be replaced by the Articles of Association in the form marked "Document A" in substitution for all former articles of association;*

*1.2 clauses 1 to 8 of the Memorandum of Association of the Company be deleted in their entirety. For the avoidance of doubt, clauses 1 to 8 of the Memorandum of Association are being replaced, in an amended form, by the Articles of Association as adopted in 1.1 above.*

This resulted in a merged Articles and Memorandum of Association.



Further during the year, the objects of the Charity were changed to incorporate the new Sensory Service to:

*The Charity's objects ("the Objects") are the support of (i) blind and partially-sighted persons and (ii) persons with other sensory loss, resident in the Isle of Wight in such ways as the Directors from time to time think fit and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing in the following ways:*

- (a) the provision of facilities for education, recreation, training and employment;*
- (b) the promotion of the wellbeing of such persons including the financial assistance of those in need;*
- (c) in promoting the awareness of the needs of such persons amongst the general public.*

## **Appointment of Trustees**

The Directors of the charitable company are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.



**Trustee Paul  
Rutherford**

Trustees nominate the Chair as set out in the merged Articles of Association. Trustees have the power to co-opt further members to fill specialist roles or to appoint to fill vacancies that occur between Annual General Meetings.

One third of the Board of Trustees are elected by all Guarantor Members at the Annual General Meeting and serve for three years before seeking re-election. The Board of Trustees must number at least seven and is not subject to any maximum.



Between April 2021 and March 2022, it met formally eight in addition to the AGM held in December 2021. All meetings were quorate.

There is a sub-committee for HR that meets as required, but at least annually to review the pay policy for staff.

New Trustees are recruited through an open recruitment process, against a role description / skills matrix to ensure they have the skills to undertake their role.

Details of the names of Trustees at the date of this report and changes since April 2021 are set out at the start of this section.

## Trustee Induction and Training



**Trustee  
Chris Biles**

New Trustees have an induction programme to ensure familiarity with Sight for Wight's services and policies. This includes a briefing on their legal obligations under Charity and Company Law; Charity Commission Guidance on governance and the content of Sight for Wight's Memorandum and merged Articles of Association. Induction also offers the opportunity to meet key employees, explore committee and decision-making processes and review the strategic plan and recent financial performance of the Charity.



**Trustee  
Laura Gooljar**

Trustees are offered opportunities to enable them to develop in their governance role through internal and external training events. An Annual Skills audit review is undertaken and Trustee personal qualities review, and vacant Trustees positions are then recruited for.



The Board of Trustees complete an annual review of the CEO and the Chair holds a formal review with the CEO based on pre-written questions to ensure all HR, strategic and tactical points are covered.

## Organisation



**Trustee  
John Moore**

The Board of Trustees, consisting currently of eight members, administers the charity with bi-monthly meetings.

### Delegation

The Trustees delegate the day-to-day management, the development of strategy and overall leadership of the Charity to the Chief Executive Officer.

To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive Officer has delegated authority, within the terms approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance and employment.

## Related Parties

None of the Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the Charity. They give their time freely.

Any connection between Trustee or senior personnel of the Charity and a related party must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

Conflicts of interest would be monitored through a record of interests and declarations at each Trustee meeting.



**Trustee  
Jacque Gazzard**



## Principle Risks

The Board of Trustees reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. A wider risk register was established in August 2017 and was reviewed and revised in August 2021 and is scheduled for further review and revision annually thereafter.



**Treasurer, Vice Chair  
Christina Conroy**



Where appropriate, systems and procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the Charity faces.

The risk management process itself is periodically reviewed to ensure it continues to meet the needs of Sight for Wight.

**Ruth Hollingshead  
Trustee**

Risks are minimised by the implementation of internal controls with procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. External risks to the anticipated decline in donations received through legacies have led to the plans to diversify income generation.

The Trustees thank every supporter, volunteers, staff members and every person involved in the Charity, leading the Isle of Wight's oldest Charity is a nothing less than a privilege.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'S.P. Bungey'.

**Chairman Sue  
Bungey**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Christina Conroy'.

**Trustee and Treasurer  
Christina Conroy OBE**



## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

### **TO THE TRUSTEES OF ISLE OF WIGHT SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

---

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 47 to 63.

#### **Responsibilities and Basis of Report**

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

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

#### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or



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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Underwood'.

**Paul Underwood – Director**

Dated: 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022

For and on behalf of  
Morris Crocker,  
Station House,  
50 North Street,  
Havant,  
PO9 1QU



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds Year to 31 March 2022	Total Funds Year to 31 March 2021
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments:</b>					
Incoming from generated fun Voluntary income	2	150,434	-	151,434	161,735
Activities for generating funds - Fundraising Income	3	12,128	-	12,128	5,021
Income from charitable Activities	6	32,443	-	32,443	150,585
Investment income	5	7,280	-	7,280	7,220
<b>Total Income</b>		<b><u>£202,285</u></b>	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>£202,285</u></b>	<b><u>£324,561</u></b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Costs of generating funds Fundraising costs	7	49,424	-	49,424	67,735
Charitable Activities	8	122,694	10,000	132,694	87,261
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b><u>172,118</u></b>	<b><u>10,000</u></b>	<b><u>182,118</u></b>	<b><u>155,000</u></b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>30,167</b>	<b>(10,000)</b>	<b>20,167</b>	<b>169,565</b>
<b>Investment recognised gains</b>		<b>9,063</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,063</b>	<b>35,419</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>£39,230</b>	<b>£(10,000)</b>	<b>£29,230</b>	<b>£204,984</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2021</b>		<b><u>793,358</u></b>	<b><u>10,000</u></b>	<b><u>803,358</u></b>	<b><u>598,374</u></b>
<b>Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2022</b>		<b><u>£832,588</u></b>	<b><u>£Nil</u></b>	<b><u>£832,588</u></b>	<b><u>£803,358</u></b>

The notes on pages 49 to 63 part of these accounts



## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
		£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible asset	13	358,408	359,579
Fixed asset investments	14	224,821	217,856
Investments	15	1	1
		<b>£583,230</b>	<b>£577,436</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stock		1,804	2,181
Debtors	16	54,980	24,901
Cash at bank and in hand		199,222	233,460
		<b>256,006</b>	<b>260,542</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Amount falling due in less than one year	17	(6,648)	(8,120)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>249,358</b>	<b>252,422</b>
<b>Total assets less current Liabilities</b>		<b>832,588</b>	<b>829,858</b>
<b>Creditors:</b>	18	-	(26,500)
Amounts falling due after more than one year			
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>£832,588</b>	<b>£803,358</b>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
<b>Unrestricted</b>			
General funds	19	707,588	668,358
Designated funds	19	125,000	125,000
<b>Total Unrestricted funds</b>		<b>832,588</b>	<b>793,358</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>	19	-	10,000
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>832,588</b>	<b>803,358</b>

For the financial year in question, the company was entitled to exemption under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.



## BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED) AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

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

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

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which 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 company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit and loss 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 company.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 10 November 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S.P. Bungey'.

.....  
Christina Conroy (Treasurer)

Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christina Conroy'.

.....  
Sue Bungey (Chairman)

The notes on pages **50 to 63** part of these accounts



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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### 1. Summary of significant accounting policies

#### (a) General information and basis of preparation

Isle of Wight Society for the Blind is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 39 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are described on page 40.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the Charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The charity also manages the assets held within an unincorporated charity (registered number 1149415), the assets of which were the subject of a scheme of management by the Charity Commission. The assets of that charity were amalgamated in 2013 with the assets of this Charitable company, and are reported as one entity in these accounts.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

#### (b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.



## **NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

### **(c) Income recognition**

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the Charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable; it can be measured reliably and the Charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity. For example, the amount the Charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

Where practicable, gifts in kind donated for distribution to the beneficiaries of the Charity are included in stock and donations in the financial statements upon receipt. If it is impracticable to assess the fair value at receipt or if the costs to undertake such a valuation outweigh any benefits, then the fair value is recognised as a component of donations when it is distributed and an equivalent amount recognised as charitable expenditure.

Fixed asset gifts in kind are recognised when receivable and are included at fair value. They are not deferred over the life of the asset.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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Income from grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met; it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and property. It includes dividends, interest and rent. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend and rent income is recognised as the charity's right to receive payment is established.

Other income includes the conversion of endowment funds into income which arises when capital funds are released to an income fund from expendable endowments or when a charity has authority to adopt a total return approach to its permanent endowment fund. It also includes other income such as gains on disposals of tangible fixed assets.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

### **d) Expenditure recognition**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties; it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes events;
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes lettings and functions, car parking, grounds costs, house preservation, and grants; and
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

### **(e) Support costs allocation**

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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project management carried out at Headquarters. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Premises and other overheads have been allocated in a similar basis.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 9 to these accounts.

### **(f) Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Freehold property	2% straight line
Fixtures and Fittings	10%, 15% and 25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

The Charity's assets consist of land and property originally conveyed by gift to the Local Authority in 1929 and were passed to this charity by a scheme of management. The Grounds are managed in permanent endowment, and these assets are held at nil cost.

### **(g) Investment properties**

Investment properties for which fair value can be measured reliably without undue cost or effort are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA. The Lodge property is held with a view to being re-let at market rent, and is included at market value with no amortisation.

### **(h) Investments**

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.



## **NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

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Current asset investments are short-term highly liquid investments and are held at fair value. These include cash on deposit and cash equivalents with a maturity of less than one year.

### **(i) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year**

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

### **(j) Impairment**

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

### **(k) Employee benefits**

When employees have rendered service to the Charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The Charity operates a defined contribution plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

### **(l) Tax**

The Charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010

### **(m) Going concern**

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The Trustees have also considered the impact of Covid-19 on income forecasts for 2021 and 2022 and its effect on the Charity's activities. With the stated free reserves at the year-end of £187,717 (2021 - £308,778), and the support of programmes to mitigate the financial effects of the pandemic, the Charity's forecasts and budgets have been amended. The Trustees are confident that it remains appropriate to prepare financial statements on a going concern basis.



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### (n) Cash flow statement

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No. 1 from producing a cash flow statement.

### (o) Trading subsidiary

The accounts are not consolidated but a summary of the trading company figures are shown in note 4.

## 2. Donations and legacies

	Total Funds Year to 31 March 2022 £	Total Funds Year to 31 March 2021 £
Gifts and donations	6,217	4,793
Legacies (see below)	129,676	140,883
Collecting boxes	1,329	861
Donation from trading subsidiary	<u>13,212</u>	<u>15,198</u>
	150,434	161,735
	=====	=====

Of the comparative figure £62,255, £400 was restricted income.

Legacies received included in the above, are as follows:

Donor	2022	2021
Mr Muchme		123,069
Mrs Edmunds		17,814
Mrs E D L Arendorffe	2,201	
Douglas Henry Jones	120,166	
Legacey	2,300	
Phyllis Wright	2,190	
Roy Joliffe	2,023	
Betty Rayner	500	
Sylvia Damant	500	
	<b>£129,676</b>	<b>£140,883</b>



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Year to 31/03/2022 £	Year to 31/03/2021 £
<b>3. Fundraising income</b>		
Fundraising events	4,907	2,866
Room hire	710	1,020
Other	<u>6,511</u>	<u>1,135</u>
	<b>12,128</b>	<b>5,021</b>
	=====	=====

### 4. Subsidiary Trading Company

The Charity also has a trading subsidiary company, which is itself limited by guarantee, but which operates functions within the House for the Charity. The accounts are not consolidated, but reflect the monies due from the profits of the Trading Company. A summary of the trading results of the Company is set out below:

	Year to 31/03/2022 £	Year to 31/03/2021 £
<b>Summary Profit and loss</b>		
Gross Income	44,406	32,475
Costs	<u>(31,194)</u>	<u>(14,247)</u>
Profit	13,212	14,228
	=====	=====
<b>Summary of Reserves</b>		
Accumulated of reserves	1	971
Profit for the year	13,212	14,228
Donated surplus to the charity	<u>(13,212)</u>	<u>(15,198)</u>
Accumulated profits Carried forward	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	1	1
	=====	=====



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### 5. Investment income

	<b>Total Funds 31/03/2022 £</b>	<b>Total Funds 31/03/2021 £</b>
Income from listed investments	7,280 =====	7,720 =====

### 6. Income from Charitable Activities

	<b>Total funds 31/03/2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds 31/03/2021 £</b>
Income from brailing	820	125
Income from aids and equipment	603	1,232
Income from activities	<u>31,020</u>	<u>149,228</u>
	<u>32,443</u> =====	<u>150,585</u> =====

### 7. Fundraising costs

	<b>Total Funds Year to 31/03/2022 £</b>	<b>Total Funds Year to 31/03/2021 £</b>
Investment management costs	2,126	1,567
Fundraising event costs	2,266	2,030
Staff cost	24,936	22,575
location of support costs	<u>20,096</u>	<u>18,988</u>
	49,424 =====	45,160 =====



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### 8. Charitable activities costs

	Total Funds Year to 31/03/2022 £	Total Funds Year to 31/03/2021 £
Charitable activities costs	22,144	17,926
Staff cost	63,660	46,470
Allocation of support costs	<u>46,890</u>	<u>45,440</u>
	132,694	109,836
	=====	=====

Of the comparative total, £400 was in respect of restricted activity expenditure.

### 9. Support and Governance costs

	Year to 31/03/2022 £	Year to 31/03/2021 £
Staff costs	28,942	19,869
Premises	6,120	8,291
Insurance	3,282	2,524
Management and professional support	14,556	19,424
Depreciation	<u>12,284</u>	<u>11,267</u>
	65,184	61,375
<b>Governance:</b>		
Independent examiners remuneration	1,800	1,800
Accountancy and support	<u>-</u>	<u>1,253</u>
	66,984	64,428
	=====	=====
<b>Allocation of Support and Governance costs:</b>		
Fundraising costs	20,095	18,988
Charitable activities cost	<u>46,889</u>	<u>45,440</u>
	66,984	64,428
	=====	=====



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The allocation of support and governance costs are pro-rata based on the expenditure of each cost heading to the overall expenditure in the year. Non support staff costs have been allocated directly, and as a result the comparative has been amended for comparability.

### 10. Net incoming/(outgoing) resources

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	Year to 31/03/2022 £	Year to 31/03/2021 £
Accountancy and support	-	1,253
Independent examiners fee	1,800	1,800
Depreciation – owned assets	11,284	11,267
	=====	=====

### 11. Trustees' remuneration, benefits and expenses

There were no trustees that received any remuneration for their services and expenses were reimbursed during the year of £Nil (2021 - £Nil)

### 12. Staff costs

	Year to 31/03/2022 £	Year to 31/03/2021 £
Wages and salaries	139,407	100,169
Employers pension costs	1,900	1,414
Social security costs	<u>9,129</u>	<u>2,707</u>
	150,436	104,290
	=====	=====

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

Total individuals employed by the charity	11	9
Full time equivalent staff	6.3	4.7
	==	==

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### 13. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Property £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Motor Vehicle £	Total £
Cost at 1 April 2021	400,000	144,258	8,018	552,276
Additions	-	-	11,115	11,115
As at 31 March 2022	<u>400,000</u>	<u>144,258</u>	<u>19,133</u>	<u>563,391</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Depreciation at 1 April 2021	49,021	137,118	6,559	192,698
Charge for the period	<u>8,000</u>	<u>1,141</u>	<u>3,144</u>	<u>12,285</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>57,021</u>	<u>138,259</u>	<u>9,703</u>	<u>204,983</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Net Book Value at 31 March 2022	<u>342,979</u>	<u>5,999</u>	<u>9,430</u>	<u>358,408</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Net Book Value at 31 March 2021	<u>350,979</u>	<u>7,140</u>	<u>1,460</u>	<u>359,579</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====

The original cost of the premises was £572,293 and has been subject to impairments to current market value in 2012 and 2015.

### 14. Fixed asset investments

	2022 £	2021 £
Market value at 1 April 2021	201,777	177,173
Additions	13,736	270
Disposals	(7,409)	(11,085)
Change in value of investments	<u>9,063</u>	<u>35,419</u>
Market value investments at 31 March 2022	217,167	201,777
Cash funds, held by investment managers	<u>7,653</u>	<u>16,079</u>
<b>Total investment portfolio</b>	<u>224,820</u>	<u>217,856</u>
	=====	=====



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The following individual investments outlined above represent more than 5% of the portfolio's total market value:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Schroder Unit trust	6.10%	6.60%
Black Rock Fund managers Ltd	7.23%	7.55%
Artemis fund managers	7.51%	7.05%
Temple Bar investment Trust	5.14%	5.27%
Bankers Investment Trust	7.25%	7.63%
M&G securities Limited	7.26%	6.53%
RIT Capital partners	5.67%	5.51%
HICL infrastructure Plc	4.75%	4.54%
Ninetyone fund manager UK Ltd	7.41%	8.03%

### 15. Investments

	<b>31/03/2022</b>	<b>31/03/2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Investment in subsidiary company	1	1
	==	==

The Trust owns the entire issued share capital consisting of 1 ordinary share of £1 of the trading subsidiary, Millbrooke Enterprise CIC. Millbrooke Enterprises CIC was incorporated on 20 February 2016 and trades in support of the Isle of Wight Society for the Blind.

### 16. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	<b>31/03/2022</b>	<b>31/03/2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade debtors	-	-
Amounts owing from trading subsidiary company	47,748	14,753
Other debtors and prepayments	<u>7,232</u>	<u>10,148</u>
	54,980	24,901
	=====	=====

### 17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	<b>31/03/2022</b>	<b>31/03/2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	2,908	6,052
Taxation and social security	1,940	284
Pension scheme	-	(16)
Other creditors and accruals	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,800</u>
	6,648	8,120
	=====	=====



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### 18. Movement in funds

	At 01/04/2022 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/03/2022 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
IW Council COVID Restart	£10,000	£(10,000)	-	-
Total restricted funds	£10,000	£(10,000)	-	-
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
<b>Designated funds:</b>				
Maintenance (Millbrooke House)	£70,000	-	£(20,000)	£50,000
Retail Unit	-	-	£170,000	£170,000
<b>Aspirational designated funds for</b>				
Hello Everyone QR code	£30,000	-	£(3,000)	£27,000
2020 education programme	£25,000	-	£(1,000)	£24,000
<b>Total designated funds</b>	<b>£125,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£146,000</b>	<b>£271,000</b>
General unrestricted funds	£668,358	£39,230	£(146,000)	£561,588
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£803,358</b>	<b>£29,230</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£832,588</b>

Restricted funds are provided by way of donations to assist with funding of equipment to assist the visually impaired.

### 19. Related party transactions

The charity is under the control of the Trustees. During the year the Charity's held a working capital loan with the trading company with expenses paid by the Charity for and on behalf of the trading company of £34,536 (2021 £7,089). Millbrooke Enterprises CIC made a distribution in the period to the parent charity of £13,212 (2021: £15,198), and the balance outstanding at the year end was £47,748 (2021: £14,753.)

There were no other related party transactions.



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### 20. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities

In line with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice, presented below is the full comparative Statement of Financial Activities.

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 31 03 2021 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income	161,735		161,735
Activities for generating funds			
Fundraising Income	5,021	-	5,021
Income from charitable activities	<u>74,535</u>	<u>76,050</u>	<u>150,585</u>
Investment income	7,220	-	7,220
<b>Total income</b>	<b>248,511</b> =====	76,050 =====	63,785 =====
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Fundraising costs	45,160	22,575	67,735
Charitable activities	<u>43,243</u>	<u>44,018</u>	<u>87,261</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	88,403 =====	66,593 =====	154,996 =====
Net income/(expenditure)	160,108	9,457	169,565
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>			
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	<u>35,419</u>	-	<u>35,419</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>195,527</b>	<b>9,457</b>	<b>204,984</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>			
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2020	597,831 =====	543 =====	598,374 =====
<b>Total funds carried forward 31 March 2021</b>	<b>793,831</b> =====	<b>10,000</b> =====	<b>803,831</b> =====



## **SIGHT FOR WIGHT**

01983 522205 - [enquiries@iwsb.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@iwsb.org.uk)

Millbrooke House  
137 Carisbrooke Road  
Newport  
Isle of Wight  
PO30 1DD

Website: [www.sightforwight.org.uk](http://www.sightforwight.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sight4wight/](http://www.facebook.com/sight4wight/)

## **DRESS FOR LESS**

01983 523197 - [retail@iwsb.org.uk](mailto:retail@iwsb.org.uk)

114 St James Street  
Newport  
Isle of Wight  
PO30 5HB

Facebook: search for Dress for Less Group



Instagram: [www.instagram.com/dressforless\\_iow](http://www.instagram.com/dressforless_iow)

**ISLE OF WIGHT SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND**

England & Wales - Charity number 1149415

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# Accounts

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# Sight for Wight

The Isle of Wight Society for the Blind  
Annual Report and Accounts  
For the Year ended  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2021



Registered Charity 1149415

Company Limited by Guarantee Number 6240404

Trustee  
Ruth Hollingshead



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## Welcome from our Chair, Sue Bungey

A warm welcome to everyone. We present our annual report and accounts for the Isle of Wight Society for the Blind, known as Sight for Wight. We are the Isle of Wight charity offering help, support and advice to people on the Isle of Wight living with and affected by Sight Loss.



During this, my third year as Chair of the Board of Trustees, we have embedded the 2020 Strategy into our work and have ensured that everything we do has the members at its focus.

2020 has been an extremely challenging year for our members, many of whom have self-isolated for over 15 months. Social distancing is simply impossible if your vision does not allow for it, and for those using touch to guide themselves, the fear of contracting the virus is extremely real.

Directly supporting just under 630 Visually Impaired people, to counter this in April 2020 the staff and volunteers took it upon themselves to telephone every single member to talk to them, check that they had medicine, food and social contact and most importantly listen to each person. A mammoth task but as a result, we felt we had done our best to help everyone on an individual basis.

Without the commitment of our team of volunteers, staff and trustees, the generous ongoing donations from our supporters and the direct feedback from our members, we would not be able to offer the breadth and detail of service that we do. Thank you to every person who has, and will, contribute to us.

Thank you to our whole team.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S.P. Bungey'.

**Sue Bungey - Chair of the Trustees**



## Welcome from our CEO, Lisa Hollyhead.

I took the reins as Chief Executive Officer at the end of March 2020, I am very pleased to be at the helm as our new 2020 strategy has really taken shape over the past 12 months.



Of course, it goes without saying that 2020 was a very difficult year, starting in full lockdown and ending with our centre still closed to members.

This certainly however did not stop our work for members, we completed our largest ever member contact by telephoning **every single member**, one by one, to check their individual home circumstances, to offer help through our charity and partner organisations.

We celebrated what we thought was 125 years as a working charity but, after lots of research, it would appear that although it was 125 years since formal minutes of the Charity's work began, the first meeting was actually recorded in 1865 making us 155 years old which actually pre-dates the RNIB. Researching the history really was a very captivating experience and seeing the work done by our predecessors really inspired current staff and volunteers.

We have also made huge progress in embedding our 2020 Strategy into what we do, how we do it and why we do it. To this end, during the year, we completed several new large projects as a direct result including:

**A Friend in Need** - Lottery Community Fund Grant incorporating befriending, Alexa Skill and hardware funding.

**Hello Everyone QR Codes** – Turning the written word into audio.

**Hello Everyone Access QR Codes** – Allowing VI people to enter an area with confidence.

**One Wish project** – catering for wants not just needs.



**Member Transport survey** – completed and changed how we help people.

**Newsletter** – with funding from Independent Age, we have doubled the size and now send it out in one of five formats, through one of nine channels.

**Audio Library** - celebrated 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and made the complete move from tape to CD's.

**Talking news** - celebrated 45 years of service, is now played on local Radio, our Alexa Skill and of course retaining our weekly USB distribution.

**Education program** – teaching every Isle of Wight primary school child how to prevent avoidable sight loss and the importance of good eye health.

**Families and Young people** – establishing contact with schools sensory team and reaching out to families.

**Employment for VI People** – offering one to one support to people looking for work and offering accessibility advice to employers.

**Videos** - production of videos to educate people on living with sight loss and what are the major conditions people live with.

**Working partnerships** – we have established working partnerships with 25 other local and national organisations.

**CENSUS** – working with the Local and National CENSUS staff to produce an accessible 2021 CENSUS, with accompanying accessible information leaflets.

**Lobby for the needs of VI people** – including work with Hampshire Police on their Visual Impairment Protocol and BERYL E-Scooter.

**Member Volunteering** – Helping others empowers you.



**Logo Competition** – our shop was relaunched with a brand-new logo designed by a 12-year-old Isle of Wight School child.

All of these projects are covered later in this report when we look back, and future projects are summarised when we look forward.

In summary, 2020 was a very difficult year with no face-to-face contact with members. We used the time with the results of our 2020 survey to really look at what we do and refocus everything around members true needs.

Having lived with 88% sight loss since birth and with progressive hearing loss, I naturally use my own experience, but I know fundamentally every single person, regardless of whether or not they are living with sight loss, is an individual and deserves to be treated as one.

My promise to our members:

- Strive to empower, providing the best possible services.
- Provide professional, expert support, guidance and skills.
- Communicate with a unified voice, ensuring individuals receive consistent messages in their preferred format.
- Always be honest and transparent.

*Lisa Hollyhead*

**Lisa Hollyhead**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



## Trustees' Report – A Strategic Approach

The Trustees are pleased to present their Annual Directors' Report, together with the financial statements of Sight for Wight for the year ending 31 March 2021.

The year has put an enormous strain on staff, volunteers and members alike and we have made commitments to utilise reserves to offer individual support and help to our members to return to their previous level of independence and confidence in the outside world.

We have increased our range of services to meet the strategic aims identified in our 2020 Strategy. We have reached out with an Island-wide collaborative approach to provide the best possible services to our members with efficient use of resources.

It is a strong belief of the Trustees that working with the wider community will produce the best results for our members. We should all play to our strengths and allow others more capable to fulfil our weaker areas. Our core aims are:

- To identify the needs of people living with and affected by Sight Loss.
- Develop an Isle of Wight network to fulfil them.
- To raise funds, sufficient to maintain service in the long-term, and deploy all resources efficiently and responsibly.
- To invest in our team of staff, volunteers and members for long-term benefit to everyone involved.

Fully engaged with twenty-five other organisations, we actively refer people to ensure they receive the best service, advice and support. We have bi-annual training, meeting with 13 of these organisations to ensure advice remains current, and that realistic time scales and expectations can be given to members.

To ensure our sustainability, we have continued a rigorous financial review of all expenditure, and the attached financial statements show a positive



addition to reserves this year, due in the main to a legacy received just before the year end.

This will be utilised in line with our legacy policy, to both maintain and further service to members. Our reserves held in our Charles Stanley portfolio showed a year-end rise in value of £35,419 compared to a 2020 year end loss (£34,085).

The trustees continue to monitor the Charity's reserves, ensuring their low-risk strategy is adhered to and including a review of the portfolio managers.

The major areas identified in 2020 where provision on the Isle of Wight is severely lacking have been tackled during the year, as detailed in our looking back section. And during the year, further gaps have been identified to be tackled in the forthcoming year.

- One to one support recovering from lockdown
- Increased sports activities
- Confidence building activities
- Rehabilitation services available



The Board of Trustees wish to thank each and every member of staff, volunteer supporters, and most importantly charity members for their support, help and honest feedback on services. This makes it possible for Sight for Wight to continue to go from strength to strength, supporting people on an individual basis.

**Sue Bungey**  
Chair of Trustees

**Christina Conroy**  
Treasurer



## Celebrating 125 Years

Celebrating what we believed to be our 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday this year we took the chance to really delve further into our history and found in fact we actually seem to date as far back as 1865.

**1865 to 1895** - During the mid-Victorian period in Great Britain, interest and concern began regarding the plight of blind people and their families living in the community. This concern brought about the formation of societies whose specific aims were to support “needy blind” people in the community.

In 1865 John Cooper wrote to the Editor of the Isle of Wight Observer asking vicars of all denominations and interested Ladies and Gentlemen to come together to form a committee to represent the needs of the blind and raise money.

In 1867 he again writes detailing the accounts for the proceeding two years of the Isle of Wight Blind Society. There are more than a dozen further articles with charity events staged across the Island between 1865—1873 to raise money for the Isle of Wight Blind Society. By 1873 it even has Royal patronage. There is then little of note until circa 1893 when a new society with the incredibly long name ‘The Isle of Wight Society for the Benefit of the Indigent Blind and Alleviation of Diseases of the Eye likely to lead to more Blindness’ is noted.

Although the earliest information on its establishment is actually missing, the County Records Office has a series of annual reports that start with the 6th Annual report published in 1899, which surely suggests it existed on the Island in the tax year 1893/4. It lists a President, General Carr Tate, who I believe to be General Henry Carr Tate who lived on the Island at least in the latter part of his life and passed away at the age of 91 in October 1901.

**EDUCATION FOR THE BLIND OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT.**

*To the Editor of the Isle of Wight Observer.*

Sir,—I should feel obliged by your inserting the following in your next paper. Having sent circulars to the clergymen of the various parishes, Dissenting ministers, and several gentlemen and ladies of the Island, I beg to say I shall be most happy to receive their names to be on the committee, or any others who feel interested in the welfare of the blind. It may not be uninteresting to many of your readers to know the origin of a blind society in the Isle of Wight. In June, 1863, a lady by the name of Vicars (I believe the aunt of late Headley Vicars) came to Wootton Bridge and taught me to read in the house that I was born in, and about a year ago recommended me to Mr. Moor, who came to Ryde and established a society, whose failure may be attributed to want of publicity. I am anxious to ameliorate the condition of my blind brethren and sisters both by education and pecuniary assistance, and many are in distressing circumstances; indeed, I should be most happy (if the funds would permit) to establish a home for them in the Island.

I am, Sir, your much obliged servant,  
JOHN COOPER.

Wootton Bridge, I.W., April 5, 1865.

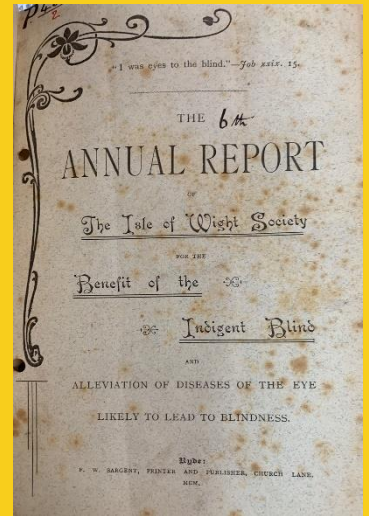
P.S.—Subscriptions received at the “Isle of Wight Observer” Office, Ryde.



This first annual report details fifteen local secretaries who are linked to Parishes, this leads us to believe this is one and the same Society set up through the efforts of John Cooper in 1865.

The report of 1899 further lists the first books made available for members to read and they are entirely made up of extracts from the Old and New testaments, initially in Moon's type, before Braille was added at a slightly later date. So, it

would seem that our lending library has a wonderful history too, though perhaps offers a wider range of material these days.



The year 1920 saw the introduction of the Blind Person's Act which laid certain responsibilities on local authorities to provide some services for blind people. It was permissible for local authorities to delegate some or all of these responsibilities to a voluntary agency, and in 1921 the Society became affiliated to the Council and remained so until 2014. As a result of the act in 1921 this pension was 1 shilling per week.

1938 to 1970- This period saw a huge shift in how blind Isle of Wight people could be helped away from paying benefits, to trying to help them in more practical ways.

The first details of 1945 records show income was £5,022, with expenditure of £4,020 and reserves of £4,842.

In 1946, GP Dr Finley proposed opening a home for the blind, but the then treasurer, Mr CL Davies was cautious and declared further fundraising was needed as property prices were so high. But, with changes in state aid for blind people from the period 1946 – 1950 the Charity came under threat as it was perceived it was no longer needed.

### **Home at Polars for blind IW residents**

By 1951 The Society had plans in place to build a 20-bedroom home at Polars, adjoining a council care home. A total of £22,750 had to be raised for



the build; the County Press carried a front-page fundraiser offering people the chance to purchase a brick for a shilling.

By 13th June 1955, Wilfred Pickles opened the home. It is believed this was the first home built after the National Assistance Act was passed in 1948, and the only one built in conjunction with an old people's home allowing blind people to mix with sighted people and become friends.

26 of the Island's 172 blind people had a home with scented gardens, activities including crochet, radios and heating. Running costs of the home were met by the Council and the number of residents stayed at around 20. By 1981, the last time a record was kept, this had dropped to 17. By 2000 the link between Polars and the Society was minimal but its lasting legacy was the craft centre built at Polars.



### **1951 What do the accounts show?**

Income of £1,300 against costs of £1,000. With 152 blind members, 74 males of whom 51 were unemployed and 78 females of whom 73 were unemployed. Costs included a two-week holiday for members to Bournemouth, costing £7.50 with £277 being spent on 'special grants to members, food, clothing, braille magazines and radios.' A further £1.05 was paid to every single member as a Christmas present.

In 1954 the Society saw a dramatic change in their objectives which were re-written from 'giving financial and other help to the needy blind' to 'giving help financially or otherwise as may be necessary to the blind and the partially sighted in the Isle of Wight and in the prevention of blindness.' There were 13 partially sighted people in addition to the 153 blind people.

By 1960 a home teacher had been employed to help the 252 blind and 17 partially sighted students on the Island, and a craft centre erected at Polars costing £4,000. By 1964 the Society could no longer afford to employ the home teacher and the Council were asked to take over this role.



To aid fundraising a three-year contract was entered into with the RNIB whom had previously withdrawn any joint funding in 1951 on a 50/50 basis. However, of the £2,763 raised the RNIB took £1,130 as costs leaving just £1,652 to distribute. The Society ended the arrangement. With the departure of the home teacher Noreen Taylor, the only remaining employee, was left with 300 people to help on her own.

- 1950's Blind employees
- 1 chartered physiotherapist
- 3 chair caners
- 1 carpenter
- 1 boot maker
- 2 boot and shoe repairers
- 1 machine knitter
- 2 tea agents
- 1 hand loom weaver.

The 1960's and 1970's saw the Society take over its fundraising as the council funding depleted and the RNIB relationship ended. However, the Council finally took responsibility and employed two officers through the Society to offer rehabilitation services, and while other areas of the Country lost their own society and with that the keeping of registers, the Island stood strong and the Society flourished in helping people as their history had proved they could.



### The present day

As I am now at the helm of the Isle of Wight's oldest working charity, I stand in awe at my predecessors and what they have achieved. The early records show from 1928—1958 Mr S B Dore was the only employee and was famed for 'his unfailing compassion for the blind.' When ill health took control, he was followed by his daughter, Mrs Noreen Taylor, who introduced the Home Teacher and fought hard with the Isle of Wight Council to introduce, eventually, two full-time paid Rehabilitation Officers.

Ian Attrill followed Noreen Taylor who was a huge instigator in the Charity moving forward with the very significant increase in the number of members, both blind and partially sighted, who became registered. In 1999 Olive Light took over, gaining the Investors in People award.



This would be followed in 2014 under Estelle Thomas with the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. Now, in 2020, I am at the helm with our amazing team of staff, volunteers, trustees and members.

In the latter part of 2019, at the AGM, it was announced that we should go right back to grass roots and really look at what the Charity should be doing, what our members really want and need from us and how we can best fulfil those needs. I wanted to take this further to include the wider VI community and so we have spent 2020 talking but, most importantly, really listening to Isle of Wight VI people.

Our member's feedback is regularly sought and our quality monitoring and indeed level of voluntary donation tells us we are doing well.

In conclusion the jury believe we should be in fact celebrating 155 years not 125.



**Millbrooke House 2020**



## The Whole Team

Firmly imbedded into the philosophy of Sight for Wight is our strategic aim namely ***to invest in our team of staff, volunteers and members for long-term benefit to everyone involved.***

### Staff

The team of staff have worked diligently and cohesively to provide increased support to members when face to face activities had to stop. We are a small team but everyone knows what everyone else does, staff ensure members get consistent and responsive communication and the training undergone in the year really has meant that our advice is clear, current and correct.



### Volunteers – The Trustees

Sight for Wight's team of eight trustees worked tirelessly attending our bi-monthly main board meetings, working with individual staff on specific projects, advising on lobbying, making new introductions and fundraising. The team includes two severely sight impaired trustees and one sight impaired, but all the Board have a personal experience of severe sight loss through a close family member or friend giving true empathy towards our members.

### Volunteers

With a small staff team, much of what we do can only be achieved with the tremendous support, so generously given, by our volunteers. Our volunteers support all areas of our operations, in facilitating and delivering member activities, education, fundraising, administration and governance.

Whilst we sadly have to say goodbye to people, we always celebrate the work they have done for us and thank all volunteers for their continued help and support. Equally we welcome new people who bring fresh ideas and experience.



**Mel Barnes**



Our usual annual summer celebration to thank volunteers for 2020 was replaced by a welcome back party in July. The weather at Millbrooke house performed beautifully and all 40 volunteers who were able to attend were so pleased to be back.

By the year end our active volunteers had risen back, but only to 70 as so many people were still isolating.



## **Volunteer Welcome Back**

## **THANK YOU**

### **ONE VOLUNTEER STORY - MEL BARNES**

The Charity was honoured to have received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2014 and Sight for Wight remains immensely proud of the achievements of our volunteers and volunteering programme today.

To help to continue to evaluate and quantify the enormous support volunteers provide Sight for Wight, we endeavour to record their hours' contributing to Sight for Wight during the year. We also invite volunteers to describe what they gain from volunteering with Sight for Wight, so that we have both quantitative and qualitative data that will support our work.

### **A Tribute to Mel Barnes**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a very popular and loved volunteer, Mel Barnes. Mel began volunteering in 1996 after his retirement from Southern Water, joining his wife who was already a volunteer.

Mel soon began helping out with a variety of activities including holidays, maintenance, home visits, emergency transport, minibus driver and escort, but more recently he planned and supported the Striders and Strollers on many a walk around the Island and on the mainland.



We spoke to Mel earlier this year; he recounted several stories of people so thrilled to regain some lost independence by joining groups led by him. He said, “I honestly could not have been more pleased to be given the opportunity to do this.” Thank you, Mel.

We thought the most fitting tribute would be to recount one of those stories. The following is from **Danielle Burgess** a member of his **Striders’** group:



*I first met Mel back in 2011 on a Sight for Wight Striders’ walk which, for me, was a baptism of fire. I cannot remember the walk-in question, but I was struck at how Mel made me feel welcome to his merry band of walkers. The walk itself was very challenging with steep gradients, downhill slopes, and copious amounts of mud, which I soon realised was to be a regular feature of Mel’s walks! As a newbie and not the fittest, Mel would often take my arm and gently bring me to the front to lead the way. It was on those occasions that Mel and I would chat, and he would tell me about some of his wonderful holidays which always involved trains, another of his passions.*

*Our Striders’ walks were never dull, and it never ceased to amaze me how he managed to find such interesting walks across our beautiful island, always doing a ‘reccy’ first. Thanks to Mel I can proudly say that I am now able to do a 5 to 6 mile walk with relative ease.*

*Mel was not a huge fan of dogs and I still remember when our group went from having two guide dogs to five on occasions; Mel’s heart must have sunk! The dogs always knew when Mel was about, as there was the possibility of an exciting walk to follow.*

*At the end of our walks our reward was a pub lunch and, for the most part, Mel came up trumps and always managed to locate a suitable eatery. At the end of the day Mel would sometimes say to me – “hope we will see you next month” with a wry grin*





*and twinkle in his eye! Even though I would return home with achy limbs and, in more recent times, a very muddy Bailey, the sense of achieving one of Mel's walks always left me with a warm glow.*



*So, thank you Mel for helping me gain confidence to do challenging walks and introducing me to some wonderful fellow Striders and Sighted Guiders.*

Mel will always be remembered by his caring nature, sunny smile but most of all for his cowboy hat he donned during any type of weather! You will be so greatly missed and, once restrictions allow, we will walk in his honour.

## **Members**

Serving our members is at the forefront of everything we do, it is why we are here. Here we would normally expect to put lots of photos of our weekly, monthly, and one-off activities we have done during the year. This simply isn't possible this year, we have been closed for all face-to-face activities for the whole year.

Instead, we will cover the new member services we have achieved behind the scenes:

## **Providing Support and Information**

Sight for Wight aims to help anyone affected by sight loss, including relatives and carers, with practical information and emotional support.

When the lockdown started in March 2020 it became evident very quickly that our members needed a little extra help to cope with lockdown. Online shopping, which of course was in short supply anyway, is simply not accessible especially for those who struggle with tech.

The extent of reliance on friends and family, who could no longer visit, became apparent and so we felt the best thing we could do was thoroughly research what local help was available and then phone every single member and ensure they had regular and adequate access to food, medicine and human contact. We ended every call with



## ***“What is the one thing we can help you with right now?”***

We of course prioritised the calls based on age and living arrangements as the whole process did take several weeks to complete. The result was plenty of referrals and the evident need for a befriending scheme. It came as a shock to us just how many of our members' only activity outside of their homes were our activities, all of which of course had stopped.

We immediately applied for funding to put in place our proposed Friend in Need project with the National Lottery community funding. The funding however was not just to set up the telephone befriending service, it had two further very important focuses, Sight for Wight Alexa Skill and installed Echo devices with one-to-one training. Both the latter were as a direct result of the technology gap identified in the 2020 surveys.

### **A friend in need**

Having called every member in April / May 2020 and put in place referrals and help for food, medicine and human company for everyone who needed it, in October, using profile information gathered, we began the process again. This time we were offered our telephone befriending service. The result is that we now have 10% of people on our telephone befriending scheme called every week, and a further group who we call monthly as a catch up on news.

The second element of the project was to introduce a faster way of getting important information and updates out to members in an accessible format, there was so much fast changing advice last year and our members cannot skim read or glance through internet articles, they have to listen to the information either through voiceover or screen readers. Either way browsing is something that certainly is not simple or straightforward.

So, we wrote our own Sight for Wight Skill which encompassed the following elements:

- Weekly talking news with content from three IW papers, three online News feeds, several Facebook groups and In Touch.
- Audio version of our bi-monthly newsletter
- Information and notices from eight local and national sources
- Meet the Trustees
- Meet the Team
- Meet Sight for Wight
- IWASP (IW Against Scams Partnership) update

The third element of the project was the acquisition of Echo show devices, with Vodafone dongles to offer an out-of-the-box installation to any members.

Training and installation were then offered to any members wishing to take a device and ongoing support as needed. The take up for the scheme utilised the devices purchased within the six-month period of the contract terms.

Further, these devices are equipped with a camera and therefore members can use the 'what am I holding' skill which means you can hold up an item and Alexa will read the text and tell you what you are holding, for example a tin of beans, medication, or a drink.

We further acquired Amazon Fire Tablets through the RNIB, which again can be used as Alexa devices with voice over for using apps and these were distributed to members again with full training offered in their set up. We additionally utilised the RNIB one-to-one tech and IT support for our members by referring them and ensuring they got the individual help they needed.

The final element of the project was to set up the befriending scheme to allow for face-to-face befriending once COVID secure measures allowed. This was not possible during the year.

### **USB Talking news**

During lockdown we had to shut our recording studio for our talking news. This was such a hard decision as we knew that 217 members per week



relied on the service. We had to adhere to the safety of staff and volunteers, however we approached our local radio station and they aired the talking news free of charge for us twice a week.

Our team of volunteers really came into their own, borrowing smart phones to record articles at home and send them in centrally, we were then able to produce them in radio format each and every week. We certainly had not envisaged our celebration of 45 years of the talking news every week being a closure of the service due to a world pandemic.

We remain hugely indebted to the large and stalwart team of volunteers who research articles, read, produce, copy, and arrange distribution of USB sticks. We will ensure that we continue to support this free weekly service with necessary equipment and resources.

### **Sight for Wight Website**

Our website has been tested by our team of member volunteers to ensure we continue to ensure accessibility. Thanks to **Wight Computers** for all their help achieving this.

### **on-digital information**

For those who did not wish to engage electronically we sourced two grant funds from Independent Age and IW Council. The first to produce a one-off emergency newsletter mid-April 2020 to give people as much information in their chosen accessible format as we could, and to ensure they could best cope with lockdown. The second grant enabled us to double the size of our previous newsletter and to produce it in five formats over nine channels, twice as frequently.



**Recording studio at Millbrooke House**





The members feedback we have received has been so welcome, we have completely overhauled the publication and circulation has gone from 500 to 800 over the year.



## Equipment information

Our weekly low vision drop-in days, provided to members, of course had to cease, but we made sure our phone lines were manned throughout the entire pandemic during or usual office hours with 24/7 monitoring of answerphone messages.

## Supporting Services and Activities

During 2020 no social activities took place except online meetings, an online book group and our Audio Library. The Audio Library containing 1,400 different CD titles is run entirely by one volunteer and celebrated fifty years of service, the last 15 fifteen of which has been the same single-handed volunteer.

## Promoting Well-Being

Sight for Wight supports the general well-being of Islanders living with and affected by sight loss, considering both physical and emotional needs. During 2020 we took the chance to really look at everything we offer, we really wanted to ensure we were not duplicating what others were doing, and that as many different activities as possible were covered.

Part of this was a review of transport. We have traditionally had a minibus and offered transport to as many activities and events as we can. We called together a group of members and formed a committee about whether the



minibus should be retained as it was getting to an age where repairs costs were high.

The results of the committee were that providing transport is fundamental to our activity provision and extremely valued by our members. It was therefore decided to seek funding to not only maintain the minibus, but buy a second smaller vehicle which could be driven by a wider range of volunteers. A grant was achieved, and the vehicle purchased.

Obviously, the emotional needs are at the forefront of the Friend in Need Project, which the Trustees have committed to funding for a further 18 months. It is seen as such a vital service especially as coming out of lockdown, waiting lists for counselling services for people living with VI is now in the region of eight months.

For 2021, we are expanding the telephone befriending in three ways: Living with Friends, Working Age Group and face-to-face visits. The first allows for people with the same eye condition and similar lived experience to be matched to offer real peer-to-peer support, similarly with the second, lived experience of working with a disability can be shared and, finally, the face-to-face visits are aimed at giving people back their confidence in this new COVID safe world.

***The key to negotiating any sense loss journey is not to do it alone.***

### **Working in partnership**

As detailed, we now have relationships with 25 other organisations, 13 of whom give us bi-annual training to ensure we remain current and can set our member expectations accordingly. These of course include the RNIB, RNID (Sensory Service,) Guide Dogs, Blind Veterans, and also more, but less obvious companies such as Island Roads for Skip and Scaffold News, GENIE PALS for local groups and community help, ferry companies for accessible travel, and Health Advocacy when things don't go quite right.

Of course, we are extremely lucky to have the RNIB's ECLO on our board of Trustees which means we are kept fully up to date with what they are doing



nationally, anyone who comes through the eye clinic is also offered a referral to us.

**R N I B**

—  
**See differently**

### **Promoting Avoidable Sight Loss**

Sight for Wight aims to promote avoidable sight loss through outreach at public events on the Island and through the development of an education programme.

All planned outreach events were cancelled this year, but we have increased our online presence throughout the year monitoring the reach of our posts and engaging with members on how to improve their appeal.

The Education Outreach Project could not be rolled out, but it is completely ready to go now and schools already lined up with planned dates.

### **Support for children and their families**

The Isle of Wight boasts a thriving community for children and their families who are living with hearing loss. However, the same network is simply not there for those living with sight loss. There are many examples given to us of families feeling isolated and alone when facing potentially life changing sight loss situations.

The only current support comes through schools, the Royal Society for Blind Children (RSBC) and our local council. We are already engaged with our council and have established what is in place and will engage with the RSBC. We will talk to parents and children to establish their needs, and again map need against provision so that we can fill these gaps in moving forward.

We will apply many of the same principals we have developed over many years of working with our adult members, but will tailor it to the needs of children and their families.

Our Education Program across all primary schools will raise awareness of the Charity at the same time to school age children and their families.



## **Unemployment of visually impaired residents**

Only 25% of visually impaired people nationally are in employment, this drops to around 17% of Isle of Wight working age registered SSI and SI people. The problem lies on both sides, employers fearful of employing someone with a sensory loss (and unaware of legal obligations), and lack of confidence in our working age members that they can get employment. The link between employment and better mental health is well documented.

We have now established a working age group and our sessions include such topics as

- When do I mention my sight?
- How do I access a support worker?
- How much more do I need to prove myself because of my sight loss?
- How do I apply for access to work equipment?

This was backed with an RNIB course which covered 16 core areas including Your Legal Rights, Access to Work, how to find a Support Worker, Confidence and Resilience building. **Lobbying for the needs of VI people**

One of the core strategic aims of Sight for Wight is to lobby for the needs of VI people both locally and nationally. During 2020 we have engaged with several other organisations to do just that:

### **Hampshire Police – Visual Impairment Protocol**

One of our members approached Hampshire and IW Police to detail how a police officer had attended her property, but she had no way of identifying that he was a genuine officer. Hampshire and IW Police took this very seriously and approached us to work with them in finding a way to prevent the same thing from happening again.

The result, the Hampshire and Thames Valley Visual Impairment Protocol. The system uses a password and 101 service to allow the homeowner to verify the legitimacy of the caller. We have further advised other police forces across the UK on the same protocol.



## **BERYL E-Scooter**

E-scooters were introduced and come with obvious concerns for VI people. When BERYL were identified as winning the bid for the Isle of Wight, we approached them and worked very closely with them to ensure as much work as possible was done in advance to take account of the needs of VI people.

To this end, we increased the fine if scooters are left outside of their designated parking zones and reduced their permitted maximum speed. We are now their nominated charity, if complaints are made we receive a donation for each one on a points system.

## **IW Council in COVID secure changes to central towns**

When the world reopened last July there were many physical changes in our towns with wider pavements and barriers put in place with bus stops being spread out and moved. We worked with the IW Council and Isle Access to advise on minimising the disruption for VI people when making these changes.

## **Videos**

Following on from our work with the Police we were asked if we could make a presentation of what are the main forms of sight loss, how these effect people's vision, and what are the basic steps you can take to help them. We produced a short video of just this, identified the seven main causes of sight loss, giving examples of any residual vision this gives people, and then interviewed some of our members to give first-hand experience of what it feels like not to be able to see and identify the person who is in front of you.

## **Hello Everyone QR Codes**

As a charity, we are always looking for innovative ways of helping our members in their daily lives. We believe we have found a very significant way of doing this. We want every visually impaired (VI) person to feel confident in their surroundings in their everyday lives, not just when someone is there to help.

**Our aim** – Simple; allow a VI person to walk into a building with confidence



and have access to the written word without restriction.

**How** - Turn the written word into a human voice and provide audible information on physical surroundings.

**Method** - Audible Hello Everyone QR code.

**Our vision is twofold.** To get the QR system onto every building so anyone entering knows the layout and where to find a human being; secondly, replacing the written word so every food label, every letter, every menu can be heard.

**Entering a building when you are VI**, quoting one of our Trustees who is a Guide Dog user, is like “bumbling around like a blind person.” No one wants to be that person. Instead scanning a QR code that will give you a mind’s eye layout and the confidence to find a human being is all that is needed.

This is a key point where we differ from other guidance methods, we keep it simple, allow the person to enter the building and find a human being. Blind people are perfectly capable of getting from A to B, they do it every day, what they are not so good at is knowing where B is when in new surroundings.

As a sight loss charity, we can offer these audible QR codes with unlimited scans but, most importantly, with real advice on what the audio should say. Asking a sighted person, for example, to wear a blindfold to produce the script doesn’t work. Our CEO learnt this herself, with 8% vision she tried to write the scripts but, with some residual vision, missed trip hazards, orientation information and distances because she used her residual vision others may not have.

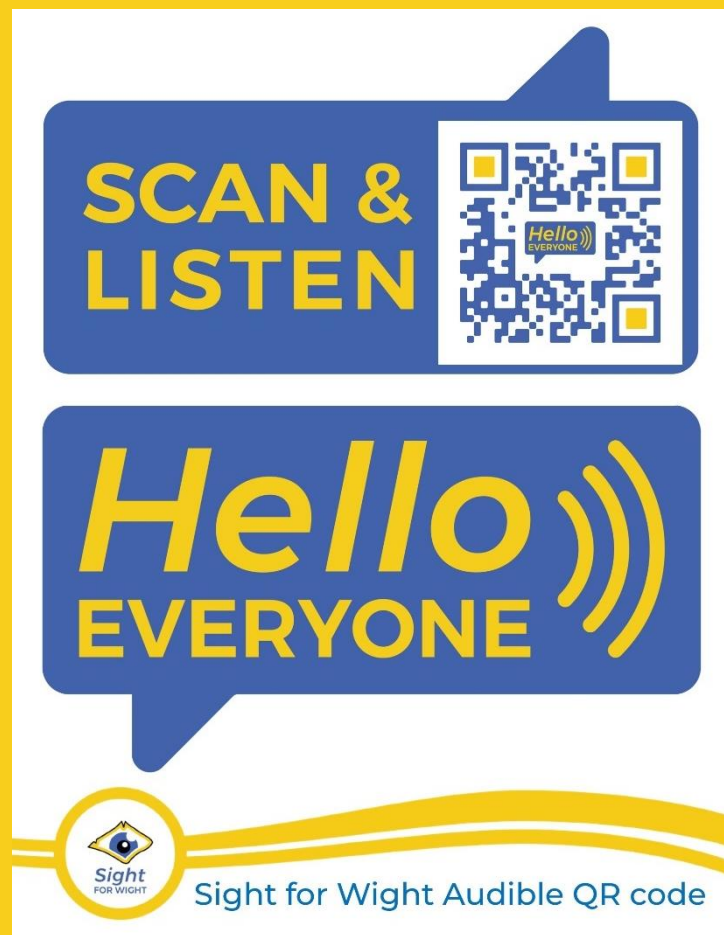
The obvious question, how does the member know the QR code is there? The actual Hello Everyone QR code must be placed at five feet high on the left-hand side of the door on the external wall at street level. Without this consistency the scheme will not work, as the user must know where to aim their smartphone.



The second use is to turn the written word into audio. On the front of these accounts is such an example, scan and listen to our volunteer readers read out an audio version of this report. They can be added to any food label, menu or letter and we have developed software to run any text into a computer voice giving expressive rendition of the wording.

We have already provided Sight for Wight Hello Everyone QR codes for several commercial partners including the national CENSUS, who approached us to produce a QR code for their full CENSUS information. Also Hampshire Police, IW Council, Hovertravel, several IW tourism attractions and some larger pubs / restaurants.

Moving this QR code further forward to achieve our aim of having them everywhere, but keep them simple, cost effective and current is one of the key aims for Sight for Wight for the coming year.





## A Member's story

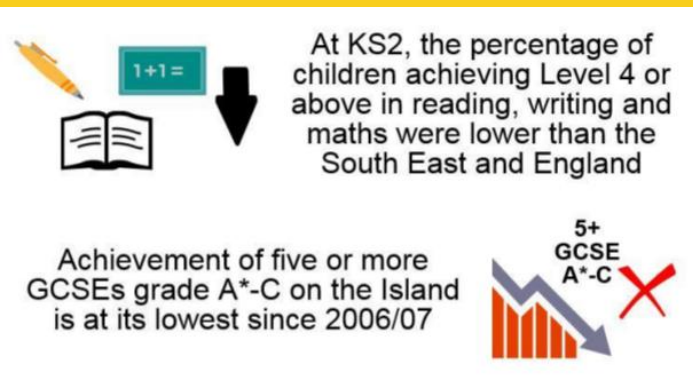
### Dr Catherine Miller

On 1st of December 1998, my husband and I moved from South London to the Isle of Wight, which was the best decision we have ever made.

We swapped 'commuter hell' for the beautiful Isle of Wight. We are both Chartered Accountants and so spent some years working in our profession on the Island.

One day in 2008 I just woke up and thought that when I went to university in 1986 there was no internet, and we knew so little about how our planet functions and what effect we are having on it as we live our lives. So, I took the brave decision to leave my job as Finance Director and return to university to find out how much science has moved on in terms of what we know about our planet and climate.

The things that I learnt going back into university after 20 years were amazing, so, to cut a long journey short, I now have 6 university degrees in: economics, oceanography, ocean science, management business administration, engineering and education.



Whilst working for the amazing charity UKSA, I stumbled upon a statistic about our Island's children's GCSE achievement in maths.

It is not good and not fair.



So, there was no choice for me, I had to return to education and try to make things fairer for our Island's children.

With the support of my husband, I am now working towards gaining my Newly Qualified Teacher (Mathematics) status at Cowes Enterprise College – the second-best decision we ever made.

So why is this story so amazing? I am registered blind and wear hearing aids. But I am in my classroom hopefully inspiring my pupils not to let anything get in their way. I stand in front of them wearing my weird glasses and using a portable microphone, doing my best to inspire them not to fear but to embrace maths. I let them know my expectations: I do not accept Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) as an excuse for you not to achieve your potential.

Finally, I would like to say that one day I hope to change this acronym of SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) to just DEN:

Differential (varying according to circumstances or relevant factors)  
Educational Needs.

*Catherine*

**Dr. Catherine Miller**



## Looking forward

We continue to be driven by statistics which remain broadly as last year.

- More than two million people are living with sight loss.
- Half of all cases of sight loss are avoidable.
- 6,000,000 people are estimated to be living with sight-threatening eye conditions and lockdown is estimated to have increased this by a further 500,000.
- 360,000 people are registered as Sight Impaired and Severely Sight Impaired.
- Only 25% of Sight Impaired and Severely Sight Impaired people of working age are in employment.
- There are 25,500 children under 16 who are Sight Impaired and Severely Sight Impaired.
- Only 17% of people experiencing sight loss are offered emotional support in relation to their deteriorating vision.

Looking specifically at the Isle of Wight the same relative proportions apply but specifically:

- More than 6,500 people on the Island are living with sight loss.
- 48% of all cases of sight loss are avoidable.
- 1,050 people are registered as Sight Impaired and Severely Sight Impaired.
- There are 65 children under 16 who are Sight Impaired or Severely Sight Impaired.
- There is a nine-month waiting list for getting qualified emotional support to deal with deteriorating vision.

Our 2020 strategy maps out the low vision journey against local provision to meet the actual needs of visually impaired Isle of Wight residents and visitors. Throughout this report we have detailed where we are with current projects and where we are looking to move to in the forthcoming year



## Financial Review



### Fundraising Activities

The remit of the CEO is to consider overall fundraising policy and strategy, and to oversee all fundraising activities. During the year there was extremely limited opportunity for local fundraising with every event cancelled due to the pandemic.

### Annual Story Writing Competition

2020 did however see the fifth annual Story Writing Competition on the theme 'The Wish'. This again attracted many entries of a high calibre across the three categories of entrants.



**Jo Brand**

Winning entries were recorded by celebrities **Jo Brand, Melvyn Hayes, Edana Minghella and Ray Allen**, who very generously supported us.



**Melvin Hayes**

The event culminated with an online awards ceremony in December. With over 250 people watching live online for the much-anticipated results, prizes were awarded to our four category winners Fed Canavan, Isobel Woodford, Claudia Summers and Charlotte Wilson

We were also delighted to have the support of Hannah the Vintage Song Bird, Kelly Burke and Ben Stubbs providing musical entertainment throughout the evening.



**Edana Minghella**



## Donation by Individuals

With the change to our newsletter, increase in current and managed referral, Alexa Skill and increased level of one-to-one calls and support, as a charity we have seen a staggering increase in individual donations. Barely a day goes by without a letter, email, or phone call of appreciation for the work done in the last 12 months and people want to thank us by supporting us.

The number of monthly standing order donations has doubled, and our 100 Club has started to recover after a dramatic downturn when lockdown first hit.

The 2020 Christmas Raffle was again a great success, and in celebration of our 125 we managed to accumulate a staggering 125 prizes and smashed our target income.

## Fundraising in the community

The Co-operative, Morrisons, Asda and Tesco have all been very supportive of our charity, again adding to us their local charities, holding second hands goods sales for us and allowing us to do bucket collections.

We wish to thank every one of our loyal supporters, as without your generosity we would not be able to continue to do what we do, it is that simple. AND without our volunteers, they're on hand every time we ask, we would not be able to run the events and count the proceeds!



**Jan (Community Champion from TESCO)**

## Legacies

A new legacy leaflet has been produced in 2019 and we have certainly enjoyed some staggering legacies this year which have of course come at such a critical time.

However, we are very aware that legacy income cannot easily be predicted and can never be guaranteed. It is widely recognised that as we generally enjoy longer lives, many of us can expect to spend our later years in



expensive residential care, depleting estates that might otherwise have benefitted family, friends and chosen charitable causes.

We have also seen quite a significant rise in people pledging our charity in lieu of flowers for funerals, we are always so grateful that people think of us at such a sad time.



With no other outside events, and collection tins sadly lacking funds (as everyone moved over to contactless) our CEO looked to other ways to locally fundraise.

This took place in the form of grant funding, and we were able to not just maintain service but increase significantly the services offered during the year.

## Income and Expenditure

Sight for Wight's total income for the year stood at £248,511 compared to £63,785 in the previous year and this is a direct reflection of the grant and legacies income sourced compared to prior years.

After total expenditure of £88,403 (2020: £167,392) and gains on investments £35,419 (2020 loss £34,085) the surplus for the year amounted to £195,527 (2020: deficit £137,692).

In 2020 the Trustees charged the new CEO with producing and adhering to a balanced budget to stop the previous draw on reserves, as part of the 2020 Strategy implementation, ensured staff costs are controlled.

## Total Funds and Reserves

The total movement in funds and the net reserves of the Charity are £195,527. The charity's summary of reserves, including future plans can be summarised as follows:



<b>Total Funds per Accounts</b>	803,357
Less Restricted Funds	-10000
Fixed Assets	-359,579
General Funds	433,778
<b>Designated Funds</b>	
Millbrooke House maintenance	-70,000
Hello Everyone QR Codes	-30,000
2020 Education Outreach Program	-25,000
<b>Free reserves</b>	<b>£308,778</b>

Fixed assets are tied up in Millbrooke House and equipment that we need to deliver our services and activities. Funds are designated to ensure that there is adequate contingency in respect of maintenance.

The Charity has returned to a balanced annual budget and aspires to use designated reserves to grow and develop services for the future, including the Education Program for raising awareness of avoidable sight loss and the Hello Everyone QR codes.



The Restricted Funds relate to the activities that the donors have specified. The trustees have set aside the free reserves necessary for day-to-day working capital and to cover potential identifiable financial risks in accordance with the Charity Commission's recommendations and guidance.

## Investment Policy

The performance of the investment portfolio is regularly reviewed by the Trustees who have given the investment manager discretion to manage the portfolio within an agreed risk profile. The investment manager submits quarterly progress reports and performance is reviewed accordingly.



It holds designated funds not immediately required, in the expectation of providing a better return than that available from bank or savings accounts. The objective is to produce a balance between capital growth and income. Within the policy remit, Sight for Wight has imposed an ethical restriction not to directly invest in any company if a major part of their business could adversely affect visual impairment.

The market value of the portfolio as of 31 March 2021 was £217,856 (2020: £185,536).

## Pension Scheme Liabilities

The pension scheme liabilities relate to the Pension Fund administered by the Isle of Wight Council in respect of past service obligations for non-active members. As envisaged, this was fully paid by 31 03 2021 (2020: £9,166 equating to the cash paid in the year to 31 03 2021).

The Charity runs its own NEST pension scheme for current employees for which all contributions are up to date and paid.



*Lisa Hollyhead*

**Lisa Hollyhead Finance Officer**



## Our Trading Company Millbrooke Enterprises CIC

Millbrooke Enterprises CIC, established in 2015, currently generates revenue from Dress for Less, our charity boutique dress agency in St James Street, Newport.



During the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 this was closed over seven months, trading for the remainder of the time, but in very difficult circumstances.

However, to keep income flowing, the shop manager and her volunteers undertook several different projects:

### **Clothes collecting**

The vast majority of local charity shops remained closed through 2020 and those who were open were overwhelmed with donations

The number of calls we received from desperate people trying to deal with belongings from people who had passed away was vast. We set up an island wide collection service knowing that the clothes we collected would not suit our Dress Agency customers, this did not stop us, we wanted to help people.

We collected over 150 black sacks full to brim with clothes and our volunteers searched through every single bag, washed, pressed, and sorted the clothes. We sold what we could, and every single other piece of clothing was then donated to people in genuine need. Through our sorting process we knew our onwards donations were clean and very much fit for purpose, and the people we collected from couldn't have been more grateful.



## Facebook and eBay

Whilst the shop had to remain closed, we took the chance to bring forward plans to create a Facebook and eCommerce shop for our donated items. This was an enormous learning curve for us, but our online presence was very much born. Sales increased steadily over time and lessons were learnt. Our Facebook sales soon exceeded eBay and our efforts were concentrated there.



## New branding logo

Whilst the shop was closed, we took the time to review its internal design, ensuring our members had good accessibility. We changed all our labels, making them four times bigger in size and employing the contrast of colour rules. We moved everything around and created a much nicer more conducive shopping atmosphere.

Having remodelled the physical shop, we needed a new logo to compliment it. Instead of simply paying a design agency to come up with something, we decided to go out to the Isle of Wight community, most of whom were equally locked down, and asked them to create a new logo for us.



We were so pleased with the designs and narrowed them down to a shortlist of five. The winner was designed by Chloe from the Island Free School who really listened to the logo remit, and fully engaged her design with our existing Sight for Wight Logo, creating the vitally important relationship between the two organisations.

## Private video tours

Shops finally opened in July, albeit to close again, but many people still did not wish to venture out, so we thought, 'let's bring the shop to the people'. We created standard videos of the shop and offered people individual on-line



video tours looking for items specifically for them. Many hours of amusement were had when our random customers were asked to try clothes on for online guests of a similar size.



The future of the shop had to be seriously analysed during the year as it exists entirely to support the Charity, but the CEO put financial plans in place to reduce outgoings dramatically and the Trustees were very satisfied that the shop would continue to produce a positive cash flow, which could be used to support the shop.

By the end of March, we were ready to reopen with 17 of our previous 23 volunteers returning to us, all keen to return and without whom our enterprise would simply not be possible. A huge thank you to every one of you, not only for giving up your time but for tirelessly spreading the word and letting everyone know where they could find us.



Millbrooke Enterprises CIC again generated an excess of income over expenditure during the financial year ended 31 March 2021 noting that all salary costs of the Retail Manager, employed by Sight for Wight, undertaking work on behalf of Dress for Less are recovered from Millbrooke Enterprises CIC.

Full accounts for the Millbrooke Enterprises CIC, Company Number 10017281, are separately reported.

*Debbie*

**Debbie Durbridge**  
**Retail Manager**



## Structure, Governance and Management

### Our Trustees, advisors and management

Our Board of eight trustees is made up as follows:

- Sue Bungey (Appointed as Chair in February 2019)
- Christina Conroy (Appointed as Treasurer in February 2019)
- Chris Biles
- Laura Gooljar
- Jacqueline Gazzard
- Ruth Hollingshead
- John Moore
- Paul Rutherford



#### Our Chief Executive Officer

Lisa Hollyhead F.C.A. BS(Hons)

#### Registered Office

Millbrooke House, 137 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, PO30 1DD

Company registration number 6240404

Charity registration number 1149415

#### Accountants and Independent Examiner - Morris Crocker

Station House, 50 North Street, Havant, Hants PO9 1QU

#### Bankers - Co-operative Bank PLC

PO Box 101, 1 Bolton Street, Manchester, M60 4EP

#### Investment Managers - Charles Stanley and Co. Ltd

Vadatech House, Hounsdown Business Park Southampton SO40 9LR

**The Board of Trustees  
meeting Geoff Underwood  
Isle of Wight High Sheriff**



## Our Governance

Sight for Wight is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The liability of each Guarantor Member in the event of winding up is limited to £10. The Trustees are Guarantor Members of the Charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no legal beneficial interest in the Charity. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission.

The stated objects within the Articles for which Sight for Wight was established are, for the public benefit:

- The provision of facilities for education, recreation, training and employment;
- The promotion of the well-being of such persons including the financial assistance of those in need; and
- Promoting the needs of such persons amongst the general public.

## Appointment of Trustees

The Directors of the charitable company are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.



**Trustee Paul  
Rutherford**

Trustees nominate the Chair as set out in the Articles of Association. Trustees have the power to co-opt further members to fill specialist roles or to appoint to fill vacancies that occur between Annual General Meetings.

One third of the Board of Trustees are elected by Guarantor Members at the Annual General Meeting and serve for three years before seeking re-election. The Board of Trustees must number at least seven and is not subject to any maximum.



Between April 2020 and March 2021, it met formally eleven times in addition to the AGM held in December 2020. All meetings were quorate.

There is a sub-committee for HR that meets as required, but at least annually to review the pay policy for staff.

New Trustees are recruited through an open recruitment process, against a role description / skills matrix to ensure they have the skills to undertake their role.



**Trustee  
Laura Gooljar**

Details of the names of Trustees at the date of this report and changes since April 2020 are set out page 39.

## **Trustee Induction and Training**



**Trustee  
Chris Biles**

New Trustees have an induction programme to ensure familiarity with Sight for Wight's services and policies. This includes a briefing on their legal obligations under Charity and company law; Charity Commission Guidance on governance and the content of Sight for Wight's Memorandum and Articles of Association. Induction also offers the opportunity to meet key employees, explore committee and decision-making processes and review the strategic plan and recent financial performance of the Charity.

Trustees are offered opportunities to enable them to develop in their governance role through internal and external training events. Annual Skills audit review is undertaken and Trustee personal qualities review, vacant Trustees positions are then recruited mindful where significant gaps lie.



The Board of Trustees complete an annual review of the CEO and the Chair holds a formal review with the CEO based on pre-written questions to ensure all HR, strategic and tactical points are covered.

## Organisation



**Trustee  
John Moore**

The Board of Trustees, consisting currently of eight members, administers the charity with bi-monthly meetings.

### Delegation

The Trustees delegate the day-to-day management, the development of strategy and overall leadership of the Charity to the Chief Executive Officer.

To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive Officer has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the Trustees, for operational matters including finance and employment.

## Related Parties

None of the Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the Charity. They give their time freely.

Any connection between trustee or senior personnel of the Charity and a related party must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

Conflicts of interest would be monitored through a record of interests and declarations at each Trustee meeting.

## Principle Risks

The Board of Trustees reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. A wider risk register



**Trustee  
Jacque Gazzard**



was established in August 2017 and is reviewed and revised in August 2020 and is scheduled for further review and revision annually thereafter.

Where appropriate, systems and procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the Charity faces. The risk management process itself is periodically reviewed to ensure it continues to meet the needs of Sight for Wight.

Risks are minimised by the implementation of internal controls with procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. External risks to the anticipated decline in donations received through legacies have led to the plans to diversify income generation and fundraising.

The Trustees thank



**Trustee  
Christina Conroy**

**Sue Bungey  
Chair of Trustees**

**Trustee and Treasurer  
Christina Conroy OBE**



## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ISLE OF WIGHT SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 46 to 63.

### **Responsibilities and Basis of Report**

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

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

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a



‘true and fair view’ which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Underwood'.

**Paul Underwood – Director**

2021

For and on behalf of  
Morris Crocker,  
Station House,  
50 North Street,  
Havant,  
Hants  
PO9 1QU

Dated: 22 November



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Un- Restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds Year to 31 March 2021 £	Total Funds Year to 31 March 2020 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	161,735	-	161,735	34,839
Fundraising Income	3	5,021	-	5,021	11,656
Income from charitable activities	6	74,535	76,050	150,585	9,732
Investments	5	7,220	-	7,220	14,695
		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Total Income</b>		248,511	76,050	324,561	63,785
			=====	=====	=====
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Fundraising costs	7	45,160	22,575	67,735	51,624
Charitable activities	8	<u>43,243</u>	<u>44,018</u>	<u>87,261</u>	<u>115,768</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		88,403	66,593	154,996	167,392
		=====	=====	=====	=====
Net income/(expenditure)		160,108	9,457	169,565	(103,607)
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		<u>35,419</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,419</u>	<u>(34,085)</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	18	<b>195,527</b>	<b>9,457</b>	<b>204,984</b>	<b>(137,692)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward At 1 April 2020		597,831	543	598,374	736,066
		=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Total funds carried forward 31 March 2021</b>		<b>793,358</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>803,358</b>	<b>598,374</b>
		=====	=====	=====	=====

The notes on pages 49 to 63 part of these accounts



## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2020 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	13	359,579	370,845
Fixed asset investments	14	217,856	185,536
Investments	15	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
		<u>577,436</u>	<u>556,382</u>
		=====	=====
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stock		2,181	2,494
Debtors	16	24,901	14,964
Cash at bank / inhand		<u>233,460</u>	<u>44,231</u>
		<u>260,542</u>	<u>61,689</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Amounts falling due within 1 year	17	<u>(8,120)</u>	<u>(19,697)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>252,422</u>	<u>41,992</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>829,858</u>	<u>598,374</u>
<b>Liabilities due in more than one year</b>		<u>26,500</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>803,358</u>	<u>598,374</u>
		=====	=====
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Unrestricted			
General funds	18	668,358	502,831
Designated funds	18	<u>125,000</u>	<u>95,000</u>
		<u>793,358</u>	<u>597,831</u>
Restricted	18	<u>10,000</u>	<u>543</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>803,358</u>	<u>598,374</u>
		=====	=====

For the financial year in question, the company was entitled to exemption under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.



## BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED) AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

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

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

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which 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 company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit and loss 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 company.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christina Conroy'.

.....  
Christina Conroy (Treasurer)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S.P. Bungey'.

.....  
Sue Bungey (Chairman)

The notes on pages 49 to 63 part of these accounts



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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### 1. Summary of significant accounting policies

#### (a) General information and basis of preparation

Isle of Wight Society for the Blind is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 31 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are described on page 32.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the Charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The charity also manages the assets held within an unincorporated charity (registered number 1149415), the assets of which were the subject of a scheme of management by the Charity Commission. The assets of that charity were amalgamated in 2013 with the assets of this Charitable company, and are reported as one entity in these accounts.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

#### (b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.



## **NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

### **(c) Income recognition**

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the Charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable; it can be measured reliably and the Charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity. For example, the amount the Charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

Where practicable, gifts in kind donated for distribution to the beneficiaries of the Charity are included in stock and donations in the financial statements upon receipt. If it is impracticable to assess the fair value at receipt or if the costs to undertake such a valuation outweigh any benefits, then the fair value is recognised as a component of donations when it is distributed and an equivalent amount recognised as charitable expenditure.

Fixed asset gifts in kind are recognised when receivable and are included at fair value. They are not deferred over the life of the asset.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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Income from grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met; it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and property. It includes dividends, interest and rent. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend and rent income is recognised as the charity's right to receive payment is established.

Other income includes the conversion of endowment funds into income which arises when capital funds are released to an income fund from expendable endowments or when a charity has authority to adopt a total return approach to its permanent endowment fund. It also includes other income such as gains on disposals of tangible fixed assets.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

### **d) Expenditure recognition**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties; it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes events;
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes lettings and functions, car parking, grounds costs, house preservation, and grants; and
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

### **(e) Support costs allocation**

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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project management carried out at Headquarters. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Premises and other overheads have been allocated in a similar basis.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 9 to these accounts.

### **(f) Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Freehold property	2% straight line
Fixtures and Fittings	10%, 15% and 25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

The Charity's assets consist of land and property originally conveyed by gift to the Local Authority in 1929 and were passed to this charity by a scheme of management. The Grounds are managed in permanent endowment, and these assets are held at nil cost.

### **(g) Investment properties**

Investment properties for which fair value can be measured reliably without undue cost or effort are measured at fair value at each reporting date with changes in fair value recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA. The Lodge property is held with a view to being re-let at market rent, and is included at market value with no amortisation.

### **(h) Investments**

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.



## **NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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Current asset investments are short-term highly liquid investments and are held at fair value. These include cash on deposit and cash equivalents with a maturity of less than one year.

### **(i) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year**

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

### **(j) Impairment**

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

### **(k) Employee benefits**

When employees have rendered service to the Charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The Charity operates a defined contribution plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

### **(l) Tax**

The Charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010

### **(m) Going concern**

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The Trustees have also considered the impact of Covid-19 on income forecasts for 2020 and 2021 and its effect on the Charity's activities. With the stated free reserves at the year-end of £131,985 (2019 - £107,893), and the support of programmes to mitigate the financial effects of the pandemic, the Charity's forecasts and budgets have been amended. The Trustees are confident that it remains appropriate to prepare financial statements on a going concern basis.



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### (n) Cash flow statement

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No. 1 from producing a cash flow statement.

### (o) Trading subsidiary

The accounts are not consolidated but a summary of the trading company figures are shown in note 4.

## 2. Donations and legacies

	Total Funds Year to 31 March 2021 £	Total Funds Year to 31 March 2020 £
Gifts and donations	4,793	3,846
Legacies (see below)	140,883	22,552
Collecting boxes	861	3,478
Donation from trading subsidiary	<u>15,198</u>	<u>4,963</u>
	161,735	34,839
	=====	=====

Of the comparative figure £62,255, £400 was restricted income.

### Legacies received included in the above, are as follows:

Donor	2021	2020
Mr Muchmore	123,069	
Mrs Edmunds	17,814	
Mrs E D L Arendorffe		13,997
Mr Tibbens		4,062
Mrs A Sheaf		1,188
Mrs L G Clarke		2,000
Mrs Agnes Biles		1,000
Mrs M Webb		275
Mrs J M Atrill		30
	<b>£140,883</b>	<b>£22,552</b>



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Year to 31/03/2021 £	Year to 31/03/2020 £
<b>3. Fundraising income</b>		
Fundraising events	2,866	3,381
Room hire	1,020	2,730
Other	<u>1,135</u>	<u>5,545</u>
	5,021	11,656
	=====	=====

### 4. Subsidiary Trading Company

The Charity also has a trading subsidiary company, which is itself limited by guarantee, but which operates functions within the House for the Charity. The accounts are not consolidated, but reflect the monies due from the profits of the Trading Company. A summary of the trading results of the Company is set out below:

	Year to 31/03/2021 £	Year to 31/03/2020 £
<b>Summary Profit and loss</b>		
Gross Income	28,475	37,694
Costs	<u>(14,247)</u>	<u>(37,264)</u>
Profit	14,228	430
	=====	=====
<b>Summary of Reserves</b>		
Accumulated of reserves	971	5,504
Profit for the year	14,228	430
Donated surplus to the charity	<u>(15,198)</u>	<u>(4,963)</u>
Accumulated profits Carried forward	<u>1</u>	<u>971</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	1	971
	=====	=====



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 5. Investment income

	Total Funds 31/03/2021 £	Total Funds 31/03/2020 £
Income from listed investments	7,220	9,381
Deposit account interest	—	<u>351</u>
	7,220	9,732
	=====	=====

### 6. Income from Charitable Activities

	Total funds 31/03/2021 £	Total funds 31/03/2020 £
Income from brailing	125	126
Income from aids and equipment	1,232	1,599
Income from activities	<u>149,228</u>	<u>5,833</u>
	150,585	7,558
	=====	=====

### 7. Fundraising costs

	Total Funds Year to 31/03/2021 £	Total Funds Year to 31/03/2020 £
Investment management costs	1,567	3,058
Fundraising event costs	2,030	7,099
Staff cost	22,575	21,287
Allocation of support costs	<u>18,988</u>	<u>20,180</u>
	45,160	51,624
	=====	=====



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 8. Charitable activities costs

	Total Funds Year to 31/03/2021 £	Total Funds Year to 31/03/2020 £
Charitable activities costs	17,926	13,625
Staff cost	46,470	55,041
Allocation of support costs	<u>45,440</u>	<u>47,102</u>
	109,836	115,768
	=====	=====

Of the comparative total, £400 was in respect of restricted activity expenditure.

### 9. Support and Governance costs

	Year to 31/03/2021 £	Year to 31/03/2020 £
Staff costs	19,869	23,352
Premises	8,291	16,714
Insurance	2,524	2,137
Management and professional support	19,424	9,881
Depreciation	<u>11,267</u>	<u>11,785</u>
	61,375	63,869
<b>Governance:</b>		
Independent examiners remuneration	1,800	2,680
Accountancy and support	<u>1,253</u>	<u>733</u>
	64,428	67,282
	=====	=====
<b>Allocation of Support and Governance costs:</b>		
Fundraising costs	18,988	20,180
Charitable activities cost	<u>45,440</u>	<u>47,102</u>
	64,428	67,282
	=====	=====



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The allocation of support and governance costs are pro-rata based on the expenditure of each cost heading to the overall expenditure in the year. Non support staff costs have been allocated directly, and as a result the comparative has been amended for comparability.

### 10. Net incoming/(outgoing) resources

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	Year to 31/03/2021 £	Year to 31/03/2020 £
Accountancy and support	1,253	733
Independent examiners fee	1,800	2,680
Depreciation – owned assets	11,267	11,785
	=====	=====

### 11. Trustees' remuneration, benefits and expenses

There were no trustees that received any remuneration for their services and expenses were reimbursed during the year of £Nil (2020 - £Nil)

### 12. Staff costs

	Year to 31/03/2021 £	Year to 31/03/2020 £
Wages and salaries	100,169	99,292
Employers pension costs	1,414	1,492
Social security costs	<u>2,707</u>	<u>2,896</u>
	104,290	103,680
	=====	=====

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

Total individuals employed by the charity	9	9
Full time equivalent staff	4.7	5.6
	==	==

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 13. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Property £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Motor Vehicle £	Total £
Cost at 1 April 2020	400,000	144,258	8,018	552,276
Additions	-	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2021	<u>400,000</u>	<u>144,258</u>	<u>8,018</u>	<u>552,276</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Depreciation at 1 April 2020	41,021	134,338	6,072	181,431
Charge for the period	<u>8,000</u>	<u>2,780</u>	<u>486</u>	<u>11,266</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>49,021</u>	<u>137,118</u>	<u>6,558</u>	<u>192,697</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Net Book Value at 31 March 2021	<u>350,979</u>	<u>7,140</u>	<u>1,460</u>	<u>359,579</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
Net Book Value at 31 March 2020	<u>358,979</u>	<u>9,920</u>	<u>1,946</u>	<u>370,845</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====

The original cost of the premises was £572,293 and has been subject to impairments to current market value in 2012 and 2015.

### 14. Fixed asset investments

	2021 £	2020 £
Market value at 1 April 2020	177,173	234,857
Additions	270	37,411
Disposals	(8,353)	(61,010)
Change in value of investments	<u>35,419</u>	<u>(34,085)</u>
Market value investments at 31 March 2021	204,509	177,173
Cash funds, held by investment managers	<u>13,347</u>	<u>8,363</u>
<b>Total investment portfolio</b>	<u>217,856</u>	<u>185,536</u>
	=====	=====



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The following individual investments outlined above represent more than 5% of the portfolio's total market value:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Schroder Unit trust	6.60%	8.41%
Black Rock Fund managers Ltd	7.22%	6.92%
Artemis fund managers	7.05%	5.11%
Investec fund managers	0%	8.97%
Temple Bar investment Trust	5.24%	4.30%
Bankers Investment Trust	7.63%	7.20%
M&G securities Limited	6.53%	5.67%
RIT Capital partners	5.51%	5.10%
Henderson investment funds Ltd	0%	5.91%
HICL infrastructure Plc	4.54%	5.48%
Ninetyone fund manager UK Ltd	8.03%	0%

### 15. Investments

	<b>31/03/2021</b>	<b>31/03/2020</b>
	£	£
Investment in subsidiary company	1	1
	==	==

The Trust owns the entire issued share capital consisting of 1 ordinary share of £1 of the trading subsidiary, Millbrooke Enterprise CIC. Millbrooke Enterprises CIC was incorporated on 20 February 2016 and trades in support of the Isle of Wight Society for the Blind.

### 16. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	<b>31/03/2021</b>	<b>31/03/2020</b>
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	-
Amounts owing from trading subsidiary company	14,753	10,733
Other debtors and prepayments	<u>10,148</u>	<u>4,231</u>
	24,901	14,964
	=====	=====

### 17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	<b>31/03/2021</b>	<b>31/03/2020</b>
	£	£
Trade creditors	6,052	4,485
Taxation and social security	284	3,786
Pension scheme	(16)	9,166
Other creditors and accruals	<u>1,800</u>	<u>2,260</u>
	8,120	19,697



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## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 18. Movement in funds

	At 01/04/2020 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/03/2021 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Todd Venables equipment fund	543	(543)	-
IW Council COVID Restart	-	10,000	10,000
 Total restricted funds	 543	 9,457	 10,000
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
Designated funds:			
Maintenance (Millbrooke House)	70,000	-	70,000
Aspirational designated funds for Hello Everyone QR code		30,000	30,000
2020 education programme	<u>25,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Total designated funds	95,000	30,000	125,000
 General unrestricted funds	 <u>502,831</u>	 <u>165,526</u>	 <u>668,357</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>598,374</b>	<b>204,983</b>	<b>803,357</b>
	=====	=====	=====

Restricted funds are provided by way of donations to assist with funding of equipment to assist the visually impaired.



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 19. Related party transactions

The charity is under the control of the Trustees. During the year the Charity held a working capital loan with the trading company with expenses paid by the Charity for and on behalf of the trading company of £7,089 (2020 £10,783). Millbrooke Enterprises CIC's distribution to the parent charity of £15,198 (2020: £4,963) and the balance outstanding at the year end was £14,753 (2020: £10,732.)

There were no other related party transactions.

### 20. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities

In line with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice, presented below is the full comparative Statement of Financial Activities.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds Year to 31 March 2020
	£	£	£
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income	29,876		26,876
Activities for generating funds			
Fundraising Income	11,656	-	11,656
Income from charitable activities	7,588	-	7,588
Investment income	14,695	-	14,695
	-----	-----	-----
<b>Total income</b>	<b>63,785</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>63,785</b>
	=====	=====	=====



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 20. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities (Cont.)

<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Fundraising costs	51,564	-	51,564
Charitable activities	<u>115,768</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>115,768</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	167,392	-	167,392
	=====	=====	=====
Net income/(expenditure)	(103,607)	-	(103,607)
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>			
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	<u>(34,085)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(34,085)</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	(137,692)	-	(137,602)
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>			
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2019	735,523	543	736,066
	=====	=====	=====
<b>Total funds carried forward 31 March 2020</b>	597,831	543	598,374
	=====	=====	=====



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