IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

England & Wales · Charity number 1149576

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2012-11-01
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Sherma Batson Centre 10-12 Exchange Road Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 1PZ
Phone	01438725400
Email	info@irishnetworkstevenage.org.uk
Website	www.irishnetworkstevenage.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING PEOPLE FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED, RELIEVING THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND ASSISTING THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLAUSE ‘SOCIALLY EXCLUDED’ MEANS BEING EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY, OR PARTS OF SOCIETY, AS A RESULT OF ONE OF MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS: UNEMPLOYMENT; FINANCIAL HARDSHIP; YOUTH OR OLD AGE; ILL HEALTH (PHYSICAL OR MENTAL); SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR DEPENDENCY INCLUDING ALCOHOL AND DRUGS; DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF SEX, RACE, DISABILITY, ETHNIC ORIGIN, RELIGION, BELIEF, CREED, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER RE-ASSIGNMENT; POOR EDUCATIONAL OR SKILLS ATTAINMENT;RELATIONSHIP AND FAMILY BREAKDOWN; POOR HOUSING (THAT IS HOUSING THAT DOES NOT MEET BASIC HABITABLE STANDARDS; CRIME (EITHER AS A VICTIM OF CRIME OR AS AN OFFENDER REHABILITATING INTO SOCIETY).

Activities: To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people was are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate in society.

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Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin

Geography

- Hertfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-05-31	£167,121	£126,279	-	-
2024-05-31	£155,553	£149,530	-	-
2023-05-31	£120,181	£121,539	-	-
2022-05-31	£115,858	£88,149	-	-
2021-05-31	£88,936	£69,787	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
BRENDAN CLYNCH		2012-12-05
Bridget Ann Geraghty		2026-05-06
FRANCES SANDFORD		2012-07-18
HILDA WARWICK		2012-07-18
Louise Donovan		2023-09-27
MARGARET LYONS		2012-06-06
MS M KING		2012-07-18

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IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1149576

Accounts

Irish Network Stevenage

Annual Report

Here to Support the Older Community in Stevenage and the Surrounding Areas

Explore More

→

Welcome From The Board

Over the last 12 months we have seen huge changes. We have moved from operating from one community centre into six neighborhood centres. This has been a fantastic achievement and one that we are very proud of. This means we are able to go into each neighborhood and deliver activities on people's doorsteps. This has led to an increase in our membership and our members being able to access more of our activities. We have continued to focus on health and well-being and social inclusion activities. We deliver approximately 80 activities a month and have a footfall of up to 1,800 members a month. We have listened to our members and brought new activities in, such as beginners line dancing classes, sequence dancing, health and nutrition workshops and our very popular sign language classes.

Under the guidance of our Board of Trustees we have adapted to an ever changing climate and the move into six neighborhood centres shows how responsive we can be. As a board we are constantly looking at new ways to support our members and we know that our best ideas come from them! We continue to advocate for our members whenever we can and keep abreast of national and local statutory changes to ensure our members are receiving the entitlements they are due. We know that we are still in very challenging times within the voluntary sector and we have worked hard to secure our sustainability moving forward into the new financial year. Our volunteers continue to be the key to our success and we are immensely proud of the work they do helping support our fantastic members.

Attendance of over 21,500!

Board of Trustees

Delivering at 6 locations!

Over 950 Activities!

Charity Information

Charity Name

Irish Network Stevenage

Registered Office

Sherma Batson Centre
10-12 Exchange Road
Stevenage
Herts
SG1 1 PZ

Trustees

Margaret Lyons (Chair)
Heather Morris (Secretary)
Marie King (Treasurer)
Hilda Warwick
Frances Sandford
Brendan Clynch
Louise Donovan
Peter Morris

Date of Inception:

November 2007

Date of Charity Registration

November 2012

Charity Registration Number

1149576

Bankers

Lloyds TSB
103 Queensway
Stevenage
Herts
SG1 1EA

About Us

Irish Network Stevenage (INS) is a Stevenage based registered charity formed in 2007, this was in direct response to the identified need that the aging Irish community needed more practical support. We have Trustees who bring a vast amount of experience from both the voluntary sector and the corporate world. We are registered with the Charities Commission and governed by a constitution.

After our inception it quickly became apparent that the older community throughout Stevenage was in need of an increased level of support, and we quickly expanded to include all older people in Stevenage and the surrounding are and currently have nearly 500 members. We are focused on helping older people combat social isolation and help them live as independently as possible. All activities are run to achieve this objective and the board made a strategic decision to offer a wide breadth of activities, thereby ensuring there is something for everyone. We are open to all that support our aims and objectives and are delighted that the services we have been providing have encouraged an ever increasing number of older people to ask for help and seek support.

As with all charities we have faced a number of challenges. Including the move from one community centre to six centres throughout the town. This move was achieved in three weeks due to the hard work and dedication of the board, volunteers and staff. This move has enabled us to reach more people and continue with our growth and expansion plans.

Secretarys Report

The Charity Secretary's role is crucial for the smooth operation and compliance of a charity. Ensuring that meetings are well-organised and minuted and legal and regulatory requirements are adhered to enables the board to act confidently in actions undertaken.
We do not work isolation, working closely with partners and signposting whenever appropriate enables members to benefit from the wide-ranging support provided to older people within the town.
Maintaining relationships with partners such as Hertfordshire Community Foundation, the National Lottery and the Stevenage World Forum for Ethnic Communities plus many more, has enabled us to access partners who have a vast amount of experience in delivering specific areas of support. Giving us the opportunity to provide a well-rounded and robust support system for our members.
Much of the work goes on behind the scenes, but is very important as it ensures the smooth and efficient running of the charity. As expected there are many statutory policies we follow and we always ensure our members are at the heart of all decisions made. We have a huge responsibility in respect of safeguarding and have robust policies, thereby ensuring any concerns raised to us by members or volunteers are addressed swiftly and referred to the appropriate authority. As a grassroots charity delivering frontline services we are able to deal with issues in real time thereby ensuring a timely response. We are a very vocal advocate of the older community, we are in constant communication with statutory and non statutory bodies, ensuring our members needs and requirements are represented. This has been a huge challenge over the year with an ever changing political landscape, but we are committed to continue this robust approach.

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to report that the last financial year has mirrored our previous years where we have continued to be in financially healthy position. In 2023 to 2024 there were a number of funds available to help alleviate the impact of the financial cuts to older people and we were very fortunate that we were able to access this fund. This year those grants for older people have not been made available, therefore our members have faced a particularly challenging year.

I am pleased to report that we successfully secured National Lottery funding which has enabled us to continue to heavily subsidise all our activities. During the three months without National Lottery funding we were able to continue our services uninterrupted due to our sustainability policy, which ensures we have funds to continue activities for a limited period without external funding. The hard work of the board has ensured that those funds were available to us when needed. This transfer of funds from a sustainability account to running costs is reflected in our Movement of Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities on page seven.

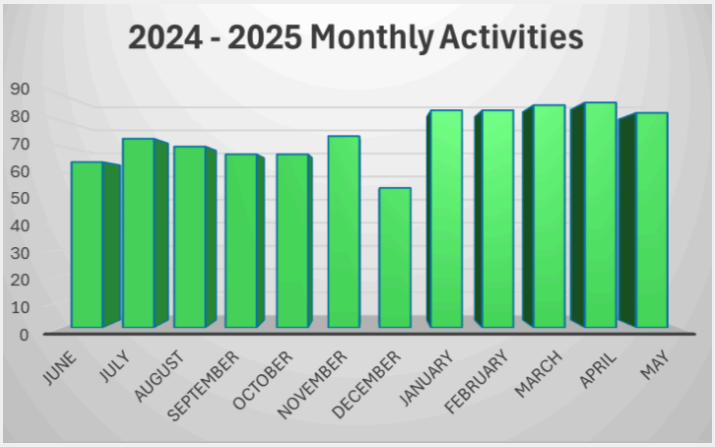
As mentioned we have received funding from the National Lottery which is four years, and a portion of the income received in this financial year is allocated to fund activities in the next financial year.

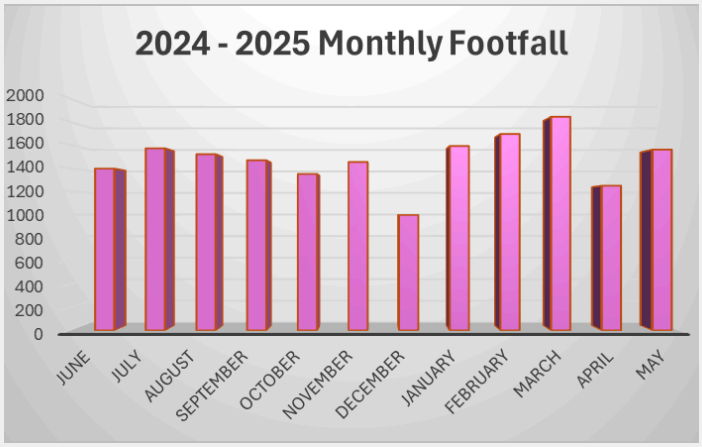
Treasurer's Report cont.

Given the current economic climate we have been focusing on supporting members in Stevenage and the surrounding areas that require additional help, including those that are feeling the effects of the increased cost of living. We ensure all our activities are accessible by all and are provided at a minimal cost. All activities incurs costs and we are very fortunate to have received funding as well as members contributions for events. We are determined to provide excellent quality services and we do this by engaging professional instructors and using high quality refreshments. This does mean that our costs this year have increased by up to 30% but we have not passed that cost on to our members. This is something the board is particularly proud of as it continues to ensure our activities are as accessible as possible. We rely heavily on funding and ensure we obtain a variety of funds from different sources and have received support from 12 different funders this year alone.

Obtaining funding is key to our delivery, and we have worked with some fantastic funders over the last year, including the National Lottery, Hertfordshire Community Foundation, both Stevenage and Hertfordshire Councils and many more. The continuing support we receive from our funders in terms of financial and practical support is immeasurable. This does mean we have to numerous detailed monitoring reports, but good reporting is key to securing future funding and every report we have produced has met the very high standards of our funders.

As you will see in the charts below we continue to offer a large volume of activities throughout the month and these are very well attended. We intentionally offer a variety of activities so there is something for everyone, and everything supports our aim to help address the issue of isolation. We are very fortunate that our events are run by volunteers who organise everything, which is fantastic, as we could not provide this level of service without them. They continue to be the backbone of INS.





Irish Network Stevenage

Statement Of Financial Activities For The Year 2024/2025

		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024/2025 £
Income				
Grants	TNLCF Funding	£ -	£ 75,735	£ 75,735
	Hertfordshire Community Foundation	£ -	£ 13,374	£ 13,374
	HCF Members Bonus	£ -	£ 9,140	£ 9,140
	Stevenage Borough Council	£ -	£ 7,804	£ 7,804
	Embassy of Ireland	£ -	£ 6,000	£ 6,000
	Hertfordshire County Council	£ -	£ 2,000	£ 2,000
	Chauncy Charity	£ -	£ 3,000	£ 3,000
	University of Hertfordshire	£ -	£ 150	£ 150
		£ -	£ 117,203	£ 117,203
Other Income				
	Income From Events and Activities	0	£ 36,547	£ 36,547
	Membership & Donations	£ 9,741	£ 3,630	£ 13,371
		£ 9,741	£ 40,177	£ 49,918
Total Income		**£ 9,741**	**£ 157,380**	**£ 167,121**
Expenditure				
	Grants Given	£ -	£ 2,950	£ 2,950
	Cost of Events	£ 1,627	£ 64,840	£ 66,467
	Salary & Pension Costs	£ -	£ 41,807	£ 41,807
	Professional Fees	£ 2,120	£ 2,326	£ 4,446
	Office Costs	£ 1,158	£ 3,198	£ 4,356
	Marketing	£ -	£ 546	£ 546
	Room Hire	£ 1,318	£ -	£ 1,318
	Volunteer Expenses	£ 89	£ 4,300	£ 4,390
Total Expenditure		**£ 6,312**	**£ 119,967**	**£ 126,279**
	Net Income Resources Before Transfers	£ 3,429	£ 37,412	£ 40,842
	Movement of Funds	£ 18,532	-£ 18,532	£ 0
	Total Fund Brought Forward	£ 120,024	£ 36,153	£ 156,177
	Total Funds Carried Forward	**£ 141,985**	**£ 55,034**	**£ 197,019**

Charity No. 1149576

Irish Network Stevenage

Financial Statements For The Year
Ended 31st May 2025

Irish Network Stevenage

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Irish Network Stevenage

Balance Sheet as at 31st May 2025

		31.05.2025
Current Assets		
Bank	£	197,019
Total Assets	**£**	**197,019**
Represented By		
Unrestricted Funds		
General funds	£	2,443
Sustainability Reserves	£	63,542
Office Reserves	£	76,000
	£	141,985
Restricted Funds		
Social Fund	£	21,346
HCF-WCC Members Bonus	£	6,250
HCF Christmas Club	£	1,434
HCF Exercise	£	837
TNLCF Funding	£	18,243
Tea and Chat	£	-
Breakfast Club	£	6,924
	£	55,034
Total Funds	**£**	**197,019**

Approved by the trustees on 24-9-25 and signed on its behalf by:

Signature M. Lyons Name M LYONS

Signature [signature] Name M KING

Approved by the independent examiner on _____

Signature [signature] Name Mrs S J Hudson

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Irish Network Stevenage		
On accounts for the year ended	31st May 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1149576
Set out on pages	1		

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

   have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:	Susan Hudson	**Date:**	24-9-25
Name:	Susan Hudson		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	AAT		
Address:	2b Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds SG17 5AL		

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1149576

Accounts

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Irish Network Stevenage

2024 Annual General Report

Registered Address;
Sherma Batson Centre, 10 – 12 Exchange Road
Stevenage, Herts
SG1 1PZ
Tel: 01438 725400
Email: info@irishnetworkstevenage.org.uk
Website: www.irishnetworkstevenage.org.uk

TRUSTEES

- Margaret Lyons (Chair)
- Heather Morris (Secretary)
- Marie King (Treasurer)
- Hilda Warwick
- Frances Sandford
- Brendan Clynch
- Louise Donovan
- Peter Morris
- Conor McGrath

REGISTERED OFFICE

Sherma Batson Centre
10-12 Exchange Road
Bedwell
Stevenage
Herts
SG1 1PZ

ACCOUNTANT

Susan Murphy

BANKERS

Lloyds TSB
Town Square
Stevenage
Hertfordshire

INTRODUCTION

Irish Network Stevenage (INS) is a Stevenage based registered Charity and was formed in late 2007 in response to the identified need that the level of support required by an ageing Irish population was increasing. It is governed by 9 Trustees, who bring a wealth of experience from both the voluntary and the business sectors. This board is supported by a Project Manager and Social Activities Coordinator.

After its inception INS quickly grew as it became apparent that the needs of many older people across the town were similar to the needs of our Irish Elders, many who were suffering from social isolation and lack of support, so INS evolved to provide support to all older people from all communities in Stevenage and the surrounding areas.

INS is focused on helping older people to combat social isolation and to live independently in their own homes for as long as is practical. This is achieved through a variety of activities, support services and practical interventions. INS is open to all that support our aims and objectives. We are delighted that the services we have been providing has encouraged a vast amount of older people to approach us and ask for our help and support. This last year has seen an increase in members and attendance and the wide range of activities we offer means there is something for everyone. We are so proud of what we have achieved and the support we can offer.

As with all charities we have had our share of challenges, specifically with the reduction in funding available and our members are still facing a cost of living crisis which means many need more support then ever, and the reduction in availability of local support has made this a difficult year for many.

Once again, we would like to thank our 28 amazing volunteers, we would not be able to do what we do without them! They support on all our activities and are instrumental in shaping our services, they are the foundation on which INS stands.

GOVERNANCE

The charities' overarching theme is to reduce isolation amongst older people and promote social inclusion. Trustee meetings are held once a month with the Project Manager in attendance. Trustees bring forward suggestions from members and volunteers for open discussion and decide on the strategic direction for the Charity. Members suggest what events to run, support we could provide and what trips to have and what support the community needs.

Trustees are nominated a minimum of 14 days prior to the AGM and are elected by members at the AGM, which is held no more than 15 months after the previous meeting. Acting Trustees are elected by the Committee as required through the year and all Trustees stand down at each AGM. As a registered Charity, INS has a Constitution and operates within the recommendations of the Charities Commission and all processes and procedures are designed accordingly. All activities and events are designed to support the aims of reducing social isolation among older people.

WELCOME FROM THE BOARD

In the last 12 months we have seen a huge increase in membership, and this has been fantastic! So, welcome to all our new members! We are also having higher attendance at our activities and many members are coming to three or four events a week.

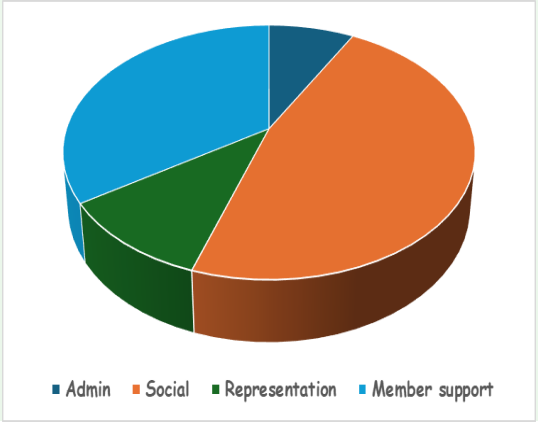
Over the last 12 months we have continued to focus our efforts on fitness and social engagement by bringing in more exercise classes and more social activities. We now deliver over 70 activities a month and have a monthly footfall of up to 1,800 members.

Under the guidance of our board of Trustees we have ensured that we are a charity that has adapted to the changing needs of our members and responded to local and national challenges. One of those ways is by starting to offer evening social activities. The hope is that this will increase over the coming months. So for those interested in a night of entertainment and music, do keep an eye on our monthly newsletters.

As a Board we are constantly looking for new ways to support our members and we monitor local and national challenges and how this could impact them. As we have seen over the last few years, the local and national picture changes very rapidly and we need to respond very quickly, putting new provisions in place and establishing fact from fiction. We are able to do this because our volunteers are versatile and are happy to help whenever needed. As a local charity we have very strong partnerships throughout the town. We signpost where appropriate and receive many referrals from statutory and non statutory organisations. We are proud of the reputation we have and continue to build on this.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Our volunteers are the reason why we can do so much. The chart below shows the volunteer hours split over the various areas we have. We have 28 committed volunteers who last year gave 8415 hours to INS helping with every aspect. This averages over 165 hours per week! This demonstrates how vital they are and how much work it takes to run these events and services. Volunteers are the "eyes and ears" of INS, not only do they run events they also let us know if additional support is needed or if anything needs addressing. We operate an "open door" policy so our volunteers can come and speak to us about anything, at anytime.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since becoming INS Secretary in 2010, I have seen the charity grow from strength to strength and it makes me proud to be part of this. As the leading older persons charity in Stevenage, we are at the forefront of making positive improvements to the lives of older people.

Working closely with our partners and signposting whenever this is appropriate, we have built a large network of partners that can support our members in many different ways. With the current challenges our members face, such as the continuing cost of living crisis and the strain on statutory and non-statutory services, we know partnership working is vital. Our continuing relationship with partners such as Hertfordshire Community Foundation, Stevenage Borough Council, The Red Shed, Stepping Out, Chauncy Charity, and Stevenage World Forum for Ethnic Communities, has enabled us to provide our members with the resources and services needed to support our members and we in turn support those organisations to help them achieve their aims. Our partnership with Herts Sports Partnership has been fantastic, and they have provided financial and practical support to our Health and Wellbeing project.

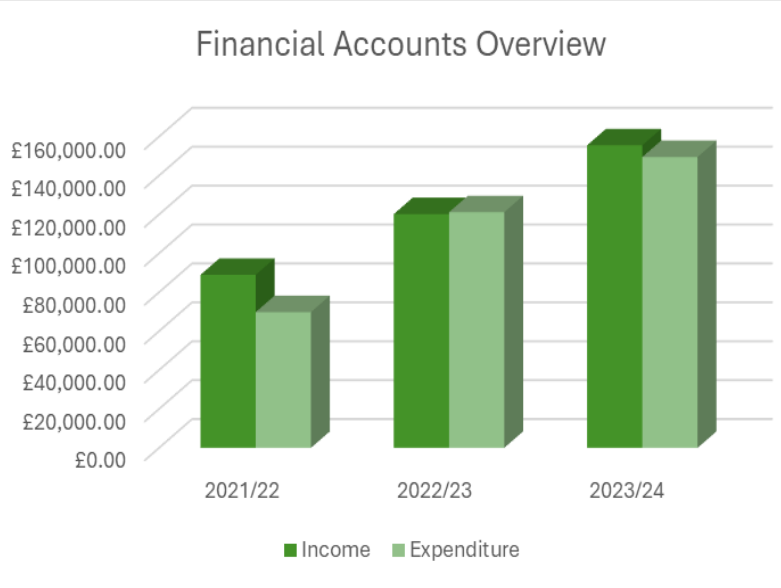
A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to ensure we have good governance and policies. We continually review our processes and procedures to ensure we are up to date with the ever-changing recommendations and legislation. As a charity delivering frontline services, we pride ourselves on our ability to quickly respond to our members' requirements and this is evident in the growth of the charity in the last financial year.

TREASURERS REPORT

The 2023 – 2024 financial year has mirrored our previous years where we have continued to be in a healthy financial position, despite many challenges. Costs have continued to increase over the last 12 months and we have worked very hard to keep our expenditure down. This has been very challenging and our volunteers have been fantastic at trying to source cheaper supplies whilst maintaining quality.

In December 2023 we reached the end of our Big Lottery funding which helped subsidise many different events and activities we ran throughout the year. Receiving funding like this not only helped us provide support, it was also a huge endorsement of the work that we do. At the end of the funding we had to complete an extensive report which included details of our expenditure and this was very well received by the Lottery. This report confirmed that we had exceeded all aspects of the project objectives and deliverables, thereby enabling us to apply for additional funding from them, which was successful and came into effect in March 2024. This has given us some much needed financial security.

In addition to the Lottery we have also worked with seven different funders to support our activities and this means we operate a specific financial monitoring systems for each funder. At the end of each fund we produce a progress report detailing what we have accomplished with the funding and a financial report showing what the fund was spent on. Every funder has approved our reports and they are happy that we are meeting the requirements of each fund, which is a testament to how the project was run and how we have identified and matched a need within our community.



On the following pages we have the Financial Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31 May 2024. The income for the year was £155,553 and the expenditure was £149,530. Our funds being brought forward are £156,177. Of this £119,732 is designated funds that have been restricted for specific projects, £36,153 is restricted funds provided by external funders and £292.00 is an unrestricted amount.

As you will see from the graph presented, we continue to operate at a financial secure level, with our income and expenditure being very similar. As a charity we continue to grow the amount of activities we deliver and the amount members we have, the increase in income and expenditure reflects this. This is a very healthy position and means we can continue to provide the currently level of support moving into the new financial year.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Irish Network Stevenage

Statement Of Financial Activities For The Year 2023/2024

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2023/2024
		£	£	£
Income				
Grants	TNLCF Funding	£ -	£ 65,319	£ 65,319
	Herts Sports Partnership	£ -	£ 3,250	£ 3,250
	Bedwell Community HSF	£ -	£ 1,087	£ 1,087
	Stevenage Borough Council	£ -	£ 5,500	£ 5,500
	Hertfordshire Community Foundation	£ -	£ 4,525	£ 4,525
	HCF Members Bonus	£ -	£ 8,975	£ 8,975
	Chauncy Charity	£ -	£ 2,500	£ 2,500
		£ -	£ 91,156	£ 91,156
Other Income				
	Income From Events and Activities		£ 54,858	£ 54,858
	Membership & Donations	£ 6,674	£ 2,865	£ 9,539
		£ 6,674	£ 57,724	£ 64,397
Total Income		**£ 6,674**	**£ 148,880**	**£ 155,553**
Expenditure				
	Grants Given	£ -	£ 7,024	£ 7,024
	Cost of Events	£ 8,663	£ 75,317	£ 83,980
	Salary & Pension Costs	£ 462	£ 39,736	£ 40,199
	Professional Fees	£ 4,730	£ 2,523	£ 7,253
	Office Costs	£ 557	£ 2,153	£ 2,710
	Marketing		£ 1,562	£ 1,562
	Room Hire	£ 1,476	£ 2,616	£ 4,092
	Volunteer Expenses	£ 726	£ 1,984	£ 2,710
Total Expenditure		**£ 16,613**	**£ 132,916**	**£ 149,530**
	Net Income Resources Before Transfers	-£ 9,940	£ 15,963	£ 6,023
	Movement of Funds	-£ 39,000	£ 39,000	£ -
	Total Fund Brought Forward	£ 131,835	£ 18,319	£ 150,154
	Total Funds Carried Forward	**£ 82,895**	**£ 73,282**	**£ 156,177**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Irish Network Stevenage

Balance Sheet as at 31st May 2024

Current Assets			
	Bank	£	160,552
Current Liabilities			
	HCF-WCC Members Bonus payments due	£	4,375
Total Assets		**£**	**156,177**
Represented By			
	Unrestricted Funds	£	292
	Sustainability Reserves	£	43,732
	Office Reserves	£	76,000
		£	120,024
	Restricted Funds		
	Social Fund	£	13,321
	HCF Christmas Club	£	2,741
	TNLCF Funding	£	15,375
	Tea and Chat	£	103
	Breakfast Club	£	4,613
		£	36,153
Total Funds		**£**	**156,177**

MEMBER SUPPORT

Since our inception back in 2007, we have remained committed to supporting our most vulnerable members, ensuring we help them enjoy their lives to the fullest. As a charity our focus is on helping those most in need, and we have never waivered from that. The level of support needed by our members continues to rise and we have seen an increase in the issues caused by social isolation and the cost of living crisis. Due to the pandemic we had to stop our visits to hospitals, care homes and residential homes, but we have now restarted visits to the housebound, but on a very small scale. We continue with our welfare calls and our volunteers signpost whenever needed. Some members just want to hear a friendly voice, but some need more practical support. We have arranged external support in the form of carelines, advocacy and even supported moves to assisted living homes. We know statutory services are under a huge amount of pressure, and we help wherever we can.

One of the groups we are most proud of is our Friendship Group, it's a small group of our more vulnerable members who meet each month, in a small friendly environment. This group offers so much peer support and being with people who have the same struggles has enabled members to feel less isolated. The group is so popular it always has a waiting list, and that is a testament to the fantastic volunteers that run this group.

The group regularly visit The Red Shed, which is a local charity that support people living with dementia and their carers, they often make floral displays and garden ornaments and just generally enjoy a beautiful outdoor space.

Stepping Out is a fantastic organisation that is funded through Social Prescribing and they have taken a number of our members on some lovely trips to places like Hatfield House and Forte Hall, which they thoroughly enjoyed. We are so grateful for such a fantastic partner. We know the Member Support we provide is so valuable and it is all about supporting each other especially when circumstances change.

SOCIAL REPORT

Our Social Afternoons and Tea Dances are very well attended and it is great to see so many people on the dance floor! These events give our members an opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones. It is so important to maintain those social connections, but this can be difficult to do without somewhere to go. So we ensure that we provide activities that are accessible by all and supported by welcoming volunteers. Social inclusion is the cornerstone of everything we do, and we believe these activities make a positive impact on our members lives. In additional to our regular groups such as line dancing, breakfast and lunch clubs, bingo and social afternoons, we have a focus on health and wellbeing. This is targeted approach in direct response to the issues we identified after the pandemic. We saw a decline in members physical abilities and a reduction in the availability of accessible and reasonably priced physical activity classes, so we offered a suite of health initiatives that have been hugely successful. With over 70 activities being offered each month, we know we have something for everyone.

Our line dancing classes continue to be very popular, and we think this is because we don't take it too seriously! The benefits of dancing are well documented, we know that it helps with strength and balance, co-ordination and increases endorphins (which are known as the "happy hormones") so we know line dancing helps both physically and mentally!

Over the last year we have had lots of special events, including a St Patrick's night dance and lunch, day trips away, our traditional Christmas lunch, and much more. This enables our members to join different types of events and activities, which they thoroughly enjoy.

All our events are run by our volunteers, many of whom have been with us since our inception. They organise everything including setting up the hall, running the kitchen, making and serving refreshments, booking members into activities, leading classes and generally helping our members have a good time. Without our volunteers the events would not happen, we have a fantastic team that we can count on and know that they are committed to making sure our most vulnerable members are supported.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

As with previous year we have seen an increase in the financial pressure that older people are facing. AGE UK report that "more than 1 in 5 older people are already reducing or stopping spending on medications or specialist foods or expect to do so in the coming months, and 1 in 7 are skipping meals or expect to do so. The cost of living crisis has made everyday purchases much more expensive and many older people living on low and modest incomes are finding it impossible to cope." Here at the INS, we see how this impacts people's mental health as well as their physical health and we try and help in any way we can.

One of the issues members have is that they do not know what they are entitled to, or are worried about completing the forms and dealing with agencies. But we are fortunate to have a fantastic volunteer that is very knowledgeable and understands how daunting these forms can be. She can help our members through this process and advocates on their behalf. She also keeps up to date with any new support that is available, signposts to other organisations where this is appropriate. Our volunteer has said that the main thing that concerns our members is the increase in food costs. This has led to members cancelling their TV packages and reducing their shopping to keep their bills as low as possible, which can have a negative impact on their quality of life and health.

Our volunteer has been helping our members claim many different types of entitlements including: Housing Benefit, Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance, Blue Badge, Passport, Bus Pass and Carers Allowance. In addition to this she has helped people obtain aids and adaptions to their home to make them safer and their lives easier. She has also provided support with the difficult process of transitioning to alternative living accommodation. Over the last year our volunteer has helped 157 people claim their entitlements, which is a 290% increase from last year. Those members received £427,751 in annual benefits this year, which is a 309% increase from last year. In addition to this she has also helped people reduce their insurance costs, challenge benefit decisions and arrange health assessment. We also run a Christmas Saving Club to help people save for Christmas all year, it reduces the stress and worry about the most expensive time of the year and helps people stay debt free. We had 196 savers save over £100,000 which was a great help at Christmas. Helping promote a healthy savings habit helps take some of the stress from people.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Last year we increased our focus more on the health and wellbeing of our members and this has been a huge success. Some of our members go to three classes a week and comment on how their wellbeing has improved. With a footfall of around 7000 over the year, we can see how popular these classes are. The NHS state “Mental and emotional health, physical health and a healthy lifestyle all contribute to an individual’s health and wellbeing” and we have adopted this as our approach to our Health and Wellbeing project. When looking at a new activity we ask “does it improve our members health and/or wellbeing?” and then we progress from there. Our Tai Chi class is a great way to start the week. Tai Chi is known to help prevent falls, relieves pain and can improve mood and mental health and even improve sleep patterns, it is also great for helping with a positive mindset.

Our Chair Based Exercise classes address overall fitness level and our instructor focuses on areas of weakness such as balance and standing up from a seated position. In our Yogalates we focus on flexibility, posture and breathing. These classes improve our members physical and mental health, and the Instructor deliberately keeps the class small so she can give individual attention when needed. Our Salsacize class is our most energetic class and is one that we try and encourage members to move to when they have attended our Chair Based classes for a while and increased their physical activity. This is based on the individuals abilities and own personal aims.

In addition to these physical activities we also run groups specifically encouraging social engagment in a relaxed and friendly environment. Our Thursday Tea and Chat is a friendly supportive group where people can take time out and chat with other members and volunteers, and this can help people feel less isolated and more included in their local community. We recently added a Breakfast Club which does the same but also provides members with a free nourishing breakfast, which has been supported by Stevenage Borough Council, and we are very grateful for this.

OUR THANKS

INS would like to thank the following organisations for all their support

CHAUNCY CHARITY

W.J. ROWE LTD
QUALITY FISH & CHIPS

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

Sherma Batson Centre
10 - 12 Exchange Road
Stevenage
Herts
SG1 1PZ

Tel: 01438 725400
Email: info@irishnetworkstevenage.org.uk
Website: www: irishnetworkstevenage.org.uk
Facebook: Ins.stevenage
Twitter: @IrishNetworkStv

Charity Number 1149576

Charity No. 1149576

Irish Network Stevenage

Financial Statements For The Year
Ended 31st May 2024

Irish Network Stevenage

Statement Of Financial Activities For The Year 2023/2024

		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023/2024 £
Income				
Grants	TNLCF Funding	£ -	£ 65,319	£ 65,319
	Herts Sports Partnership	£ -	£ 3,250	£ 3,250
	Bedwell Community HSF	£ -	£ 1,087	£ 1,087
	Stevenage Borough Council	£ -	£ 5,500	£ 5,500
	Hertfordshire Community Foundation	£ -	£ 4,525	£ 4,525
	HCF Members Bonus	£ -	£ 8,975	£ 8,975
	Chauncy Charity	£ -	£ 2,500	£ 2,500
		£ -	£ 91,156	£ 91,156
Other Income				
	Income From Events and Activities		£ 54,858	£ 54,858
	Membership & Donations	£ 6,674	£ 2,865	£ 9,539
		£ 6,674	£ 57,724	£ 64,397
Total Income		**£ 6,674**	**£ 148,880**	**£ 155,553**
Expenditure				
	Grants Given	£ -	£ 7,024	£ 7,024
	Cost of Events	£ 8,663	£ 75,317	£ 83,980
	Salary & Pension Costs	£ 462	£ 39,736	£ 40,199
	Professional Fees	£ 4,730	£ 2,523	£ 7,253
	Office Costs	£ 557	£ 2,153	£ 2,710
	Marketing		£ 1,562	£ 1,562
	Room Hire	£ 1,476	£ 2,616	£ 4,092
	Volunteer Expenses	£ 726	£ 1,984	£ 2,710
Total Expenditure		**£ 16,613**	**£ 132,916**	**£ 149,530**
	Net Income Resources Before Transfers	-£ 9,940	£ 15,963	£ 6,023
	Movement of Funds	-£ 39,000	£ 39,000	£ -
	Total Fund Brought Forward	£ 131,835	£ 18,319	£ 150,154
	Total Funds Carried Forward	**£ 82,895**	**£ 73,282**	**£ 156,177**

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Irish Network Stevenage		
On accounts for the year ended	31st May 2024	**Charity no (if any)**	1149576
Set out on pages	1		

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

   have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:	S Hudson	**Date:**	25.9.24
Name:	Susan Hudson		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	AAT		
Address:	2b Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds SG17 5AL		

Irish Network Stevenage

Balance Sheet as at 31st May 2024

Current Assets			
	Bank	£	160,552
Current Liabilities			
	HCF-WCC Members Bonus payments due	£	4,375
Total Assets		**£**	**156,177**

Represented By

Unrestricted Funds	£	292
Sustainability Reserves	£	43,732
Office Reserves	£	76,000
	£	120,024
Restricted Funds		
Social Fund	£	13,321
HCF Christmas Club	£	2,741
TNLCF Funding	£	15,375
Tea and Chat	£	103
Breakfast Club	£	4,613
	£	36,153
Total Funds	**£**	**156,177**

Approved by the trustees on _____ and signed on its behalf by:

Signature M. Lyons Name MARGARET LYONS

Signature Name MARIE KING

Approved by the independent examiner on 25.9.24

Signature S Hudson. Name Mrs S J Hudson

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Irish Network Stevenage		
On accounts for the year ended	31st May 2024	**Charity no (if any)**	1149576
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The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.
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- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

   have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:	S Hudson	**Date:**	25·9·24
Name:	Susan Hudson		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	AAT		
Address:	2b Victoria Road, Shefford, Beds SG17 5AL		

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1149576

Accounts

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1149576

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2023

FOR

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

Menzies LLP
Richmond House
Walkern Road
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 3QP

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2023

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IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2023

TRUSTEES	Ms M Lyons - Acting Chair Ms F Sandford B Clynch Ms H Morris - Secretary Ms M King - Treasurer Ms H Warwick
PRINCIPAL ADDRESS	Sherma Batson Centre 10-12 Exchange Road Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 1PZ
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1149576
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Menzies LLP Richmond House Walkern Road Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 3QP

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

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The aim of the charity is to promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing the older and more vulnerable members of our community from becoming socially excluded, and to help them live full and independent lives.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 and have regard to the public benefit guidance as issued by the Charity Commission as shown in the objectives above.

We have referred to the guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities in particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that they have set.

This public benefit statement forms the basis for all judgements regarding operational reports to the Board meetings, in order to be reassured that the facilities and services currently managed by the charity continue to meet these criteria. At these meeting, the Financial Controller also presents the quarterly financial position including taking account of any restricted funds and the Charity's status as a going concern.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

We provide a befriending 'Care in the Community' outreach programme for the elderly and housebound members of the community. In addition to this we also assist them in completing official forms to obtain the support they need. We provide social events each week including a selection of exercise activities, bingo, line dancing, social afternoons, 1:1 IT Classes, Craft Group and a Friendship Group for our most vulnerable members. All these activities are designed to cater to older people including carers, housebound members and vulnerable elders. These activities make a positive impact on their lives by enabling them to interact on different levels at different activities.

Throughout the last 12 months we continued to strengthen our partnerships and firmly believe that this is one of the reasons we are successful, we do not look to duplicate existing support services but to signpost where possible. In addition to this support, we continued to run our very successful Wednesday Christmas Club, with nearly 200 participating in the savings scheme. We participated in many local and national strategy meetings specifically addressing the new and emerging issues as a result of the pandemic and the increase in cost of living. Being a small local charity meant we could respond very quickly to need and it was very important that we continued to represent our members wherever possible to ensure that they were not overlooked when local and national changes were being made.

Once again, we saw significant challenges to the voluntary sector and the lasting impact from the restrictions that were in place continued throughout the year. This affected the most vulnerable members of our community and in direct response to these challenges we increased the support we provided to our members and continued to advocate for change on their behalf. Unfortunately, many smaller charities did not resume the same level of service as they did prior to the pandemic, this is a huge loss to the town and we have compensated for this by introducing new activities to fill this gap. This has only been possible due to the hard work of our board of Trustees and our fantastic volunteers, many of whom have been with us since we started in 2007. We are continually grateful to all those people that give their time freely to help INS support its members and are looking forward to continuing to provide that support over the coming year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Charity's income for the year was £120,181 (2022: £115,858) and expenditure of £121,539 (2022: £88,149), giving a net income/(expenditure) of (£1,358) (2022: £27,709). But comparisons to the previous years are difficult due to the implications of the pandemic. Both income and expenditure were impacted in an unprecedented way, which has meant it is difficult to get a true picture of Irish Network Stevenage's growth.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Charity to maintain funds, which are free reserves of the Charity, at a level which takes account of inflation

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a constitution adopted June 2012, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

This is through an open and transparent process in line with the requirement of the charity. New trustees are nominated by existing trustees to fulfill any specific need within the board.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 6.9.23 and signed on its behalf by:

M Lyons

Ms M Lyons - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Irish Network Stevenage
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Irish Network Stevenage (the Trust) for the year ended 31st May 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

M R Hubbocks FCA

Menzies LLP
Richmond House
Walkern Road
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 3QP

Date: 4th October 2023

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		**9,956**	**82,395**	**92,351**	93,872
Other trading activities	2	**27,830**	**-**	**27,830**	21,986
Total		**37,786**	**82,395**	**120,181**	115,858
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		**9,293**	**112,246**	**121,539**	88,149
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		**28,493**	**(29,851)**	**(1,358)**	27,709
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**103,342**	**48,170**	**151,512**	123,803
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**131,835**	**18,319**	**150,154**	151,512

The notes form part of these financial statements

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

BALANCE SHEET
31ST MAY 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at bank		**131,835**	**25,270**	**157,105**	157,837
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	5	-	**(6,951)**	**(6,951)**	(6,325)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**131,835**	**18,319**	**150,154**	151,512
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**131,835**	**18,319**	**150,154**	151,512
NET ASSETS		**131,835**	**18,319**	**150,154**	151,512
FUNDS	6				
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund				**8,998**	10,548
Designated fund				**122,837**	92,794
				131,835	103,342
Restricted funds				**18,319**	48,170
TOTAL FUNDS				**150,154**	151,512

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 6-9-23 and were signed on its behalf by:

M Lyons

M Lyons - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

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

Expenditure

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

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

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

Designated funds are those unrestricted funds which have been set aside by trustees for an essential spend or future purpose.

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

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

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Events	27,830	21,986

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

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

Trustees' expenses

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

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	25,240	68,632	93,872
Other trading activities	1,429	20,557	21,986
Total	26,669	89,189	115,858
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	1,480	86,669	88,149
NET INCOME	25,189	2,520	27,709
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	78,153	45,650	123,803
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	103,342	48,170	151,512

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other creditors	6,951	6,325

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/6/22	Net movement in funds	At 31/5/23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	10,548	(1,550)	8,998
Designated fund	92,794	30,043	122,837
	103,342	28,493	131,835
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	48,170	(29,851)	18,319
TOTAL FUNDS	151,512	(1,358)	150,154

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

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	18,995	(20,545)	(1,550)
Designated fund	18,791	11,252	30,043
	37,786	(9,293)	28,493
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	82,395	(112,246)	(29,851)
TOTAL FUNDS	120,181	(121,539)	(1,358)

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/6/21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/5/22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	4,401	6,147	10,548
Designated fund	73,752	19,042	92,794
	78,153	25,189	103,342
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	45,650	2,520	48,170
TOTAL FUNDS	123,803	27,709	151,512

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	7,617	(1,470)	6,147
Designated fund	19,052	(10)	19,042
	26,669	(1,480)	25,189
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	89,189	(86,669)	2,520
TOTAL FUNDS	115,858	(88,149)	27,709

7. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st May 2023 (2022: None).

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	**9,995**	11,022
Grants	**82,356**	82,850
	92,351	93,872
Other trading activities		
Events	**27,830**	21,986
Total incoming resources	**120,181**	115,858
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Marketing	**1,439**	2,680
Cost of events	**60,577**	30,265
Professional fees	**10,167**	12,469
	72,183	45,414
Other trading activities		
Room Hire	**3,380**	2,728
Wages	**38,438**	32,934
Volunteer Expenses	**2,730**	3,175
Office costs	**4,808**	3,898
	49,356	42,735
Total resources expended	**121,539**	88,149
Net (expenditure)/income	**(1,358)**	27,709

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1149576

Accounts

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1149576

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2022

FOR

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

Wags LLP t/a Wagstaffs
Richmond House
Walkern Road
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 3QP

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2022

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IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2022

TRUSTEES	Ms M Lyons Ms F Sandford B Clynch L Donovan - Chairman Ms H Morris - Secretary Ms M King - Treasurer Ms H Warwick
PRINCIPAL ADDRESS	Sherma Batson Centre 10-12 Exchange Road Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 1PZ
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1149576
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Wags LLP t/a Wagstaffs Richmond House Walkern Road Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 3QP

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

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The aim of the charity is to promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing the older and more vulnerable members of our community from becoming socially excluded, and to help them live full and independent lives.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 and have regard to the public benefit guidance as issued by the Charity Commission as shown in the objectives above.

We have referred to the guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities in particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that they have set.

This public benefit statement forms the basis for all judgements regarding operational reports to the Board meetings, in order to be reassured that the facilities and services currently managed by the charity continue to meet these criteria. At these meeting, the Financial Controller also presents the quarterly financial position including taking account of any restricted funds and the Charity's status as a going concern.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

We provide a befriending 'Care in the Community' outreach programme for the elderly and housebound members of the community. In addition to this we also assist them in completing official forms to obtain the support they need. We provide social events each week including a selection of exercise activities, bingo, line dancing, social afternoons, 1:1 IT Classes, Craft Group and a Friendship Group for our most vulnerable members. All these activities are designed to cater to older people including carers, housebound members and vulnerable elders. These activities make a positive impact on their lives by enabling them to interact on different levels at different activities.

Throughout the last 12 months we continued to strengthen our partnerships and firmly believe that this is one of the reasons we are successful, we do not look to duplicate existing support services but to signpost where possible. In addition to this support, we continued to run our very successful Wednesday Christmas Club, with nearly 200 participating in the savings scheme. We participated in many local and national strategy meetings specifically addressing the new and emerging issues as a result of the pandemic and the increase in cost of living. Being a small local charity meant we could respond very quickly to need and it was very important that we continued to represent our members wherever possible to ensure that they were not overlooked when local and national changes were being made.

Once again, we saw significant challenges to the voluntary sector and the lasting impact from the restrictions that were in place continued throughout the year. This affected the most vulnerable members of our community and in direct response to these challenges we increased the support we provided to our members and continued to advocate for change on their behalf. Unfortunately, many smaller charities did not resume the same level of service as they did prior to the pandemic, this is a huge loss to the town and we have compensated for this by introducing new activities to fill this gap. This has only been possible due to the hard work of our board of Trustees and our fantastic volunteers, many of whom have been with us since we started in 2007. We are continually grateful to all those people that give their time freely to help INS support its members and are looking forward to continuing to provide that support over the coming year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Charity's income for the year was £115,858 (2021: £76,099) and expenditure of £88,149 (2021: £59,500), giving a net income of £27,709 (2021: £16,599). But comparisons to the previous years are difficult due to the implications of the pandemic. Both income and expenditure were impacted in an unprecedented way, which has meant it is difficult to get a true picture of Irish Network Stevenage's growth.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Charity to maintain funds, which are free reserves of the Charity, at a level which takes account of inflation

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a constitution adopted June 2012, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

This is through an open and transparent process in line with the requirement of the charity. New trustees are nominated by existing trustees to fulfill any specific need within the board.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 25/1/23 and signed on its behalf by:

L Donovan

L Donovan - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Irish Network Stevenage

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Irish Network Stevenage (the Trust) for the year ended 31st May 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

M R Hubbocks FCA
Wags LLP t/a Wagstaffs
Richmond House
Walkern Road
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 3QP

Date: 30th January 2023

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		**25,240**	**68,632**	**93,872**	72,055
Other trading activities	2	**1,429**	**20,557**	**21,986**	4,044
Total		**26,669**	**89,189**	**115,858**	76,099
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		**1,480**	**86,669**	**88,149**	59,500
NET INCOME		**25,189**	**2,520**	**27,709**	16,599
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**78,153**	**45,650**	**123,803**	107,204
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**103,342**	**48,170**	**151,512**	123,803

The notes form part of these financial statements

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

BALANCE SHEET
31ST MAY 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at bank		**103,342**	**54,495**	**157,837**	132,003
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	5	-	**(6,325)**	**(6,325)**	(8,200)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**103,342**	**48,170**	**151,512**	123,803
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**103,342**	**48,170**	**151,512**	123,803
NET ASSETS		**103,342**	**48,170**	**151,512**	123,803
FUNDS	6				
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund				**10,548**	4,401
Designated fund				**92,794**	73,752
				103,342	78,153
Restricted funds				**48,170**	45,650
TOTAL FUNDS				**151,512**	123,803

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on ....25.1.23..... and were signed on its behalf by:

.....

L Donovan - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

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

Expenditure

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

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

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

Designated funds are those unrestricted funds which have been set aside by trustees for an essential spend or future purpose.

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

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

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Events	21,986	4,044

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

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

Trustees' expenses

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

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	190	71,865	72,055
Other trading activities	-	4,044	4,044
Total	190	75,909	76,099
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	1,293	58,207	59,500
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(1,103)	17,702	16,599
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	79,256	27,948	107,204
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	78,153	45,650	123,803

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other creditors	6,325	8,200

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/6/21	Net movement in funds	At 31/5/22
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	4,401	6,147	10,548
Designated fund	73,752	19,042	92,794
	78,153	25,189	103,342
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	45,650	2,520	48,170
TOTAL FUNDS	123,803	27,709	151,512

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

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	7,617	(1,470)	6,147
Designated fund	19,052	(10)	19,042
	26,669	(1,480)	25,189
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	89,189	(86,669)	2,520
TOTAL FUNDS	115,858	(88,149)	27,709

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/6/20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/5/21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	7,711	(3,310)	4,401
Designated fund	71,545	2,207	73,752
	79,256	(1,103)	78,153
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	27,948	17,702	45,650
TOTAL FUNDS	107,204	16,599	123,803

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	(2,551)	(759)	(3,310)
Designated fund	2,741	(534)	2,207
	190	(1,293)	(1,103)
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	75,909	(58,207)	17,702
TOTAL FUNDS	76,099	(59,500)	16,599

7. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st May 2022 (2021: None).

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	**11,022**	722
Grants	**82,850**	71,333
	93,872	72,055
Other trading activities		
Events	**21,986**	4,044
Total incoming resources	**115,858**	76,099
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Marketing	**2,680**	900
Cost of events	**30,265**	18,202
Professional fees	**12,469**	5,203
	45,414	24,305
Other trading activities		
Room Hire	**2,728**	3,259
Wages	**32,934**	26,284
Volunteer Expenses	**3,175**	1,943
Office costs	**3,898**	3,709
	42,735	35,195
Total resources expended	**88,149**	59,500
Net income	**27,709**	16,599

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

England & Wales - Charity number 1149576

Accounts

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Irish Network Stevenage

AGM REPORT 2021

Board of Trustees

Luke Donovan (Chair)
Margaret Lyons (Vice Chair)
Heather Morris (Secretary)
Marie King (Treasurer)
Hilda Warwick
Frances Sandford
Brendan Clynch

Email: info@irishnetworkstevenage.org.uk
Website: www.irishnetworkstevenage.org.uk
Facebook: @irishnetworkstv
Twitter: @IrishNetworkStv

WELCOME

Welcome from the Chair

This annual report covers activities from June 2020 until May 2021 and it is hard to put into words how difficult this financial year has been, when the pandemic first struck no one could have predicted how our lives would change and our freedoms restricted. During the year we were in various forms of lockdown and everything we did had to be stopped or changed to enable social distancing,

Throughout the year we continued to support our members and continued to advocate for change on their behalf. We also increased our remote support to our members in the form of increased phone calls, shopping, arranging care and much more, this will be detailed throughout this report. During those 12 months we spent a huge amount of time working with Stevenage Borough Council, Herts County Council and all our local partners making sure the needs of our members were being met and we had to work very hard and respond very quickly to an ever-changing landscape. Being a smaller charity meant that we could respond quickly to needs and address issues immediately whilst waiting for bigger statutory agencies to be able to respond and provide a long-term solution.

Every year I commend our volunteers on the good work that they do, but this year they have exceeded every expectation, they provided a level of support that was immeasurable, whilst also dealing with the issues that the pandemic presented to them personally. I cannot adequately express my gratitude to them and how they stepped up to support members through one of the most challenging periods in recent history. Throughout the report you will see details of how hard our volunteers worked and how much time and commitment it takes for INS to provide what it does. Our volunteers make it all look so easy, but I can assure you that they all work very hard.

Below are some photos showing members enjoying our social events in previous years and as we move into a new financial year we are starting to come back together and enjoy these events again.

Treasurers Report

As mentioned in this report all activities had to cease or changed to enable social distancing. This had a huge impact on our financial situation, as we receive a lot of our income through participation charges, raffles and fundraising activities, which could not happen during the Covid restrictions. We also did not charge for membership during this period and that subsides a lot of what we do. So, our income through these sources was almost non-existent. But also due to not being able to hold many social activities we had reduced our expenditure as well. We contacted all our funders and explained the reduction in activities and they were all very understanding, most had agreed for us to repurpose the funding to support new initiatives designed to help our members deal with Covid restrictions, and some funders allowed us to change our timescales so we could meet our obligations when restrictions had been lifted.

We have always kept a restricted fund to provide us with a pot of money that we could use in case of emergencies and this last year we were able to use this pot of money to continue to provide support to our members albeit in a very different way. We also successfully applied for specific Covid related funding to address the need for a different type of support needed by our members. So, whilst our traditional incomes sources were unavailable to us, we accessed different ones to ensure that we could still provide support to our members and therefore we continue to be in a healthy financial position.

At the beginning of the last financial year, we still had funds for some of our projects that required social engagement but due to the national restrictions imposed during Covid we could not continue with this. Therefore, following direction from our funders, we redistributed some of the funds to support our members in their homes through various means, including additional projects, telephone calls, arranging services to support them during lockdown and much more. This has been a difficult period, but we continue to adapt as needed. We rely on membership fees to subsidise our activities and the support we offer but this year we offered all members free membership as we knew that times were difficult, and we wanted to help in any way we could.

Throughout this last financial year, we continued to look for new funding opportunities to provide specific Covid related support and we are pleased to announce that once again we successfully obtained funding from a variety of funders which enabled us to increase our activities to include more welfare support.

In line with our charitable objectives and responsibilities we have maintained a healthy reserve which will ensure that we are able to meet all our financial commitments. In addition to this we also have a Sustainability Reserve that is designated to be used after the Lottery funding has finished. We have a responsibility to continue to provide the activities and support that we currently do and having reserves will enable us to do this. We are proud that that once again we have kept our accounts in a healthy position despite the challenging circumstances.

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	**Year Ended 31.5.21 Total funds £**	Period 31.5.19 to 31.5.20 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		**190**	**71,865**	**72,055**	73,255
Other trading activities	2	**-**	**4,044**	**4,044**	15,681
Total		**190**	**75,909**	**76,099**	88,936
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		**1,293**	**58,207**	**59,500**	69,787
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		**(1,103)**	**17,702**	**16,599**	19,149
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**79,256**	**27,948**	**107,204**	88,055
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**78,153**	**45,650**	**123,803**	107,204

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

BALANCE SHEET
31ST MAY 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	**2021 Total funds £**	2020 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at bank		**78,153**	**53,850**	**132,003**	118,569
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	5	-	**(8,200)**	**(8,200)**	(11,365)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**78,153**	**45,650**	**123,803**	107,204
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**78,153**	**45,650**	**123,803**	107,204
NET ASSETS		**78,153**	**45,650**	**123,803**	107,204
FUNDS	6				
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund				**4,401**	7,712
Designated fund				**73,752**	71,544
				78,153	79,256
Restricted funds				**45,650**	27,948
TOTAL FUNDS				**123,803**	107,204

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 17-9-21 and were signed on its behalf by:

L Donovan

L Donovan - Trustee

Secretary's Report

Since becoming the Secretary in 2010 I have seen INS grow and prosper. We have been through some challenging times, but none as difficult as the last financial year. The pandemic not only had a huge impact on individuals it also had a devastating effect on the voluntary sector as a whole. INS, like all other charities, is there to serve the most vulnerable members of our community and as we have always done this through face-to-face engagement, it has been very challenging. But through the restrictions we continued to engage with our members to ensure we could provide the best possible support, this meant a huge change in our processes and the introducing of new ones to ensure everyone was safe. INS had to complete risk assessments for every activity or meeting that was held, we had to invest in new technology and even redesign our office and have new layout for events so we could maintain social distancing and adhere to all the government guidelines.

Throughout the year we accessed our existing partnerships and established many new ones, with the primary objective of supporting out members. This has been a fantastic success and those redefined partnerships continue to be an extremely valuable addition to the support we can offer, both in terms of practical support and advice and guidance. In particularly our partnership working with Stevenage Borough Council, the Red Shed, Irish in Britain and HAFLS has been immeasurable.

Our volunteers have always been our eyes and ears, but this was even more important this last year as we could not hold many social engagement events, so we couldn't meet with our members. The volunteers were key in identifying new and emerging issues, predominately caused by the pandemic. Situations were changing almost daily so it was so important the volunteers were given all the support they needed to identify issues. Throughout the pandemic we transferred the phones to the Project Managers mobile phone or a Trustee and operated a 24 hours support system for volunteers and members. Therefore someone was available at all times, this enabled us to provide instantaneous support and I am proud to say we addressed and supported every members request during the pandemic.

Throughout this last financial year we continued to have regular virtual Trustees meeting to discuss what support we had provided and what we had planned for the future, these became even more important than ever. Maintaining good governance throughout the year was of primary importance and we ensured every obligation we had was met and we continued to operate within our previous arranged guidelines. INS has many different policies and they have all been designed to keep our members safe and these were constantly updated and risks assessments undertaken for any event that we did.

Whilst this year has been challenging, I believe that INS has risen to the challenge and not only helped our members through this difficult time but become an even more accessible and responsive charity because of it. Once again, our ability to provide this support is due to our amazing volunteers and INS is the charity that it is because of them.

Growth and Support

Since we started back in 2007 one of our key objectives was to help our members to live as independently as possible, and whilst the restrictions imposed due to Covid changed how we could support members, we continued to do so in many different ways. Throughout the year we provided telephone support to members to identify areas where they may be able to improve their financial circumstances. We have a fantastic volunteer that has a huge amount of experience helping older people reduce their outgoings and claim their entitlements. We also arranged carers, did shopping, and organised bill payments and much more to help our members though this difficult time.

In addition to this support, we continued to run our very success our Wednesday Christmas Club, with nearly 200 participating in the savings scheme, this was very challenging as we could not open the office and deal with members face to face, but we supported all our members to arrange remote payments which meant they continued to save throughout the pandemic.

We participated in many local and national strategy meetings specifically addressing the new and emerging issues caused by the pandemic. Being a small local charity meant we could respond very quicky and were speaking to our members that were shielding almost daily to arrange the appropriate support. It was very important that during the pandemic we continued to represent our members wherever possible to ensure that they were not overlooked when local and national changes were being made.

Supporting our members through this most difficult time was a priority to us and we know that our members found it particularly difficult when they lost a loved one and were unable to pay their respects in the traditional way. We decided to hold a Remembrance Mass for those that were lost to us during Covid and this was offered up for 70 people, which gives an indication of how our members and volunteers have been directly impacted by the pandemic, we were honoured to have the Stevenage Mayor in attendance.

We are always looking at upskilling our Trustees and volunteers and we identified a gap in their IT knowledge, So we organised workshops which was provided by HAFLS and offered to members as well to address any issues we had when dealing with technology. This was a great success and we will be repeating this next year.

Social Events

Covid restrictions meant that for most of the year we were unable to engage with any of our members in person, but there were brief periods when we were able to organise socially distanced line dancing classes and we started a Zoom exercise class. This was quite challenging as the technology was very new to us and we had to show our members how to access this remotely. When the restrictions lifted slightly, we had in person exercise classes whilst maintain socially distancing, members were so appreciative of this as they had been confined to their homes for so long and were often struggling to stay motivated. Social engagements are so important to help reduce the effects of isolation so we did everything we could to engage with members. We worked very closely with Stevenage Football Club Foundation and they helped us produce leaflets giving members details of gentle exercises, quizzes and fun activities that they could do whilst staying at home. We were also able to arrange small group walks around our local lakes when outside group exercise was permissible. It has been such a difficult year but what kept us motivated was the impact of the support we were providing was having on our members and we know we were a lifeline for many.

We were so disappointed when we had to cancel our Christmas Lunch as this is one of the highlights of the year but we were so fortunate to receive funding from the Chauncy Charity and donations from Baldock Tesco which enabled us to create some lovely Christmas hampers which we hand-delivered to our members. We also had to cancel our St Patrick's Day lunch but were able to use funding for the Lottery to provide St Patrick's Day gift bags and we were honored to be helped by the Sherriff of Hertfordshire with the deliveries!

As soon as the restrictions came into place we quickly organised a remote Craft Group to allow our members to improve on their existing craft skills or learn new ones. This was a great success and our group donated many items to the local hospitals, hospices and other charitable groups. It gave them a great feeling of satisfaction being able to give something back. No one knew when the restrictions were going to be lifted so it was very difficult for us to plan anything, but we did our best to support our members in every way that we could.

Care in the Community

The last year has been the most challenging year so far for our more vulnerable members. The restrictions on their freedom and their ability to see friends and family will have an everlasting impact. We quickly saw that it was so important to reach out to our vulnerable members as often as possible and we did this by establishing a bank of volunteers to make regular phone calls. We quickly realised that it wasn't just our members that had been previously supported by our Care in the Community programme, but all our members that appreciated the contact. So we expanded our telephone befriending scheme to include all members this was a huge undertaking and required a lot of commitment from our volunteers. We know for some members, we were often the only call they got all day, for some it was all week. So we had to ensure that we could commit to the level of support we were offering. We are pleased to say that our volunteers provided excellent support, which ranged from regular phone calls, to organising food shopping, paying bills for those members that were shielding and even providing technology that could be used to engage with family and friends. During this financial year we made over 9000 calls to members, many of these on a weekly basis. Sometimes it was very challenging, we did not know when the restrictions would be changed and it was hard for some members to have hope, but we persevered and identified those members that were struggling the most, we supported them by being a constant and dependable contact. Everyone we called said that we had brightened their day, and this made all the hard work worthwhile.

One of the most challenging aspects was not being able to visit members in hospital, or at care homes or hospices, our volunteers found this very difficult, and we created a peer support group amongst them so they could share their concerns and support each other. We held a remembrance mass for those that were lost to us during Covid, which was offered up for 70 people, this gives an indication of how our members and volunteers have been directly impacted by the pandemic.

Our volunteers have also made phone calls to statutory and non-statutory agencies on our member's behalf, dealing with agencies can be a daunting prospect, so we try and help whenever we can.

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Partners

Working closely with our partners below makes us a stronger more diverse Charity with access to many different organisations that we can call upon. Through these partnerships we all benefit from the experience and resources of others.

Our continuing relationship with partners, has grown and provided us with the resources and services needed to support our members and we in turn support those organisations to help them achieve their aims

W.J. ROWE LTD
QUALITY FISH & CHIPS

CHAUNCY CHARITY

Sherma Batson Centre
10 - 12 Exchange Road
Stevenage
Herts
SG1 1PZ

Email: info@irishnetworkstevenage.org.uk
Website: www: irishnetworkstevenage.org.uk
Facebook Page: @irishnetworkstv
Twitter: @IrishNetworkStv
Tel: 01438 725400

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1149576

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2021

FOR

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

Wags LLP t/a Wagstaffs
Richmond House
Walkern Road
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 3QP

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2021

TRUSTEES	Ms M Lyons Ms F Sandford B Clynch L Donovan - Chairman Ms H Morris - Secretary Ms M King - Treasurer Ms H Warwick
PRINCIPAL ADDRESS	Sherma Batson Centre 10-12 Exchange Road Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 1PZ
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1149576
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Wags LLP t/a Wagstaffs Richmond House Walkern Road Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 3QP

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2021

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

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The aim of the charity is to promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing the older and more vulnerable members of our community from becoming socially excluded, and to help them live full and independent lives.

Public benefit

The trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 and have regard to the public benefit guidance as issued by the Charity Commission as shown in the objectives above.

We have referred to the guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities in particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that they have set.

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ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

We provide outreach support to our more vulnerable members of the community that live throughout Stevenage, we make weekly home visits and also phone members that do not require regular visits. We also visit our members when they are in care homes, hospital or respite care. Through our social activities we provide social afternoons, which include live music, talks from community and statutory agencies, health awareness events, bingo sessions, a Men's Club, Line Dancing classes, 1:1 IT sessions and exercise classes, we also run a craft group, a Friendship Group for our most vulnerable members and organise a variety of day trips. In addition to this we also run our Christmas Savings Club and provide Christmas and a St Patrick's lunches for 200 members and guests.

It is hard to put into words how difficult this financial year has been, when the pandemic first struck no one could have predicted how our lives would change and are freedoms restricted. During the year we were in various forms of lockdown and everything we did had to be stopped or changed to enable social distancing,
Throughout the year we continued to support our members and continued to advocate for change on their behalf. We also increased our remote support to our members in the form of increased phone calls, shopping, arranging care and much more, this will be detailed in throughout this report. During those 12 months we spent a huge amount of time working with Stevenage Borough Council, Herts County Council and all our local partners making sure the needs of our members were being met and we had to work very hard and respond very quickly to an ever-changing landscape. Being a smaller charity meant that we could respond quickly to need and address issues immediately whilst waiting for bigger statutory agencies to be able to respond and provide a long-term solution.

One of our key objectives was to help our members to live as independently as possible, and whilst the restrictions imposed due to Co-Vid changed how we could support members, we continued to do so in many different ways. Throughout the year we provided telephone support to members to identify areas where they may be able to improve their financial circumstances. We have a fantastic volunteer that has a huge amount of experience helping older people reduce their outgoings and claim their entitlements. We also arranged carers, did shopping, and organised bill payments and much more to help our members though this difficult time.
In addition to this support, we continued to run our very success our Wednesday Christmas Club, with nearly 200 participating in the savings scheme, this was very challenging as we could not open the office and deal with members face to face, but we supported all our members to arrange remote payments which meant they continued to save throughout the pandemic.
We participated in many local and national strategy meetings specifically addressing the new and emerging issues caused by the pandemic. Being a small local charity meant we could respond very quicky and were speaking to our members that were shielding almost daily to arrange the appropriate support. It was very important that during the pandemic we continued to represent our members wherever possible to ensure that they were not overlooked when local and national changes were being made.
Supporting our members through this most difficult time was a priority to us and we know that are members found it particularly difficult when they lost a loved one and were unable to pay their respects in the traditional way. We decided to hold a Remembrance Mass for those that were lost to us during Co-Vid and this was offered up for 70 people, which gives an indication of how our members and volunteers have been directly impacted by the pandemic, we were honored to have the Stevenage Mayor in attendance.
We are always looking at upskilling our Trustees and volunteers and we identified a gap in their IT knowledge, So we organised workshops which was provided by HAFLS and offered to members as well to address any issues we had when dealing with technology. This was a great success and we will be repeating this next year.

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We were so disappointed when we had to cancel our Christmas Lunch as this is one of the highlights of the year but we were so fortunate to receive funding from the Chauncy Charity and donations from Baldock Tesco which enabled us to create some lovely Christmas hampers which we hand-delivered to our members. We also had to cancel our St Patrick's Day lunch but were able to use funding for the Lottery to provide St Patrick's Day gift bags and we were honored to be helped by the Sherriff of Hertfordshire with the deliveries!
As soon as the restrictions came into place we quickly organised a remote Craft Group to allow our members to improve on their existing craft skills or learn new ones. This was a great success and our group donated many items to the local hospitals, hospices and other charitable groups. It gave them a great feeling of satisfaction being able to give something back. No one knew when the restrictions were going to be lifted so it was very hard for us to plan anything, but we did our best to support our members in every way that we could. The last year has been the most challenging year so far for our more vulnerable members. The restrictions on their freedom and their ability to see friends and family will have an everlasting impact. We quickly saw that it was so important to reach out to our vulnerable members as often as possible and we did this by establish a bank of volunteers to make regular phone calls. We quickly realised that it wasn't just our members that had been previously supported by our Care in the Community programme, but all our members that appreciated the contact. So we expanded our telephone befriending scheme to include all members this was a huge undertaking and required a lot of commitment from our volunteers. We know for some members, we were often the only call they got all day, for some it was all week. So we had to ensure that we could commit to the level of support we were offering. We are pleased to say that our volunteers provided excellent support, which ranged from regular phone calls, to organising food shopping, paying bills for those members that were shielding and even providing technology that could be used to engage with family and friends. During this financial year we made over 9000 calls to members, many of these on a weekly basis. Sometimes it was very challenging, we did not know when the restrictions would be changed and it was hard for some members to have hope, but we persevered and identified those members that were struggling the most, we supported them by being a constant and dependable contact. Everyone we called said that we had brightened their day, and this made all the hard work worthwhile.

One of the most challenging aspects was not being able to visit members in hospital, or at care homes or hospices, our volunteers found this very difficult, and we created a peer support group amongst them so they could share their concerns and support each other. We held a remembrance mass for those that were lost to us during Co-Vid, which was offered up for 70 people, this gives an indication of how our members and volunteers have been directly impacted by the pandemic.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Charity's income for the year was £76,099 (2020: £88,936) and expenditure of £59,500 (2020: £69,787), giving a net income of £16,599 (2020: £19,149)

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Charity to maintain funds, which are free reserves of the Charity, at a level which takes account of inflation

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a constitution adopted June 2012, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

This is through an open and transparent process in line with the requirement of the charity. New trustees are nominated by existing trustees to fulfill any specific need within the board.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 22-9-21 and signed on its behalf by:

L Donovan - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Irish Network Stevenage

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Irish Network Stevenage (the Charity) for the year ended 31st May 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

M R Hubbocks FCA
Wags LLP t/a Wagstaffs
Richmond House
Walkern Road
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 3QP

Date: .....

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Year Ended 31/5/21 Total funds £	Period 31/5/19 to 31/5/20 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		**190**	**71,865**	**72,055**	73,255
Other trading activities	2	**-**	**4,044**	**4,044**	15,681
Total		**190**	**75,909**	**76,099**	88,936
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		**1,293**	**58,207**	**59,500**	69,787
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		**(1,103)**	**17,702**	**16,599**	19,149
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**79,256**	**27,948**	**107,204**	88,055
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**78,153**	**45,650**	**123,803**	107,204

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
31ST MAY 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at bank		**78,153**	**53,850**	**132,003**	118,569
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	5	-	**(8,200)**	**(8,200)**	(11,365)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**78,153**	**45,650**	**123,803**	107,204
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**78,153**	**45,650**	**123,803**	107,204
NET ASSETS		**78,153**	**45,650**	**123,803**	107,204
FUNDS	6				
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund				**4,401**	7,712
Designated fund				**73,752**	71,544
				78,153	79,256
Restricted funds				**45,650**	27,948
TOTAL FUNDS				**123,803**	107,204

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 22-9-22 and were signed on its behalf by:

L Donovan - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

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

Expenditure

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

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

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

Designated funds are those unrestricted funds which have been set aside by trustees for an essential spend or future purpose.

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

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

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Year Ended 31/5/21	Period 31/5/19 to 31/5/20
	£	£
Fundraising events	4,044	15,681

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

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

Trustees' expenses

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

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	1,732	71,523	73,255
Other trading activities	-	15,681	15,681
Total	1,732	87,204	88,936
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	20	69,767	69,787
NET INCOME	1,712	17,437	19,149
Transfers between funds	71,862	(71,862)	-
Net movement in funds	73,574	(54,425)	19,149
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	5,682	82,373	88,055
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	79,256	27,948	107,204

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other creditors	8,200	11,365

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/6/20	Net movement in funds	At 31/5/21
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	7,711	(3,310)	4,401
Designated fund	71,545	2,207	73,752
	79,256	(1,103)	78,153
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	27,948	17,702	45,650
TOTAL FUNDS	107,204	16,599	123,803

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

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	(2,551)	(759)	(3,310)
Designated fund	2,741	(534)	2,207
	190	(1,293)	(1,103)
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	75,909	(58,207)	17,702
TOTAL FUNDS	76,099	(59,500)	16,599

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 31/5/19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/5/20 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	5,682	1,712	318	7,712
Designated fund	-	-	71,544	71,544
	5,682	1,712	71,862	79,256
Restricted funds				
Restricted Fund	82,373	17,437	(71,862)	27,948
TOTAL FUNDS	88,055	19,149	-	107,204

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,732	(20)	1,712
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	87,204	(69,767)	17,437
TOTAL FUNDS	88,936	(69,787)	19,149

7. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st May 2021 (2020: None).

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2021

	Year Ended 31/5/21 £	Period 31/5/19 to 31/5/20 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	722	2,918
Grants	71,333	70,337
	72,055	73,255
Other trading activities		
Fundraising events	4,044	15,681
Total incoming resources	76,099	88,936
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Sundries	900	265
Cost of events	18,202	20,219
Professional fees	5,203	6,010
	24,305	26,494
Other trading activities		
Room Hire	3,259	3,619
Wages	26,284	28,558
Volunteer Expenses	1,943	2,087
Office costs	3,709	9,029
	35,195	43,293
Total resources expended	59,500	69,787
Net income	16,599	19,149

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1149576

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2021

FOR

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

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IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

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In previous years We have provided outreach support to our more vulnerable members of the community that live throughout Stevenage, by making weekly home visits and also phoning members that do not require regular visits. We also visited our members when they were in care homes, hospital or respite care. Through our social activities we would usually provide social afternoons, which include live music, talks from community and statutory agencies, health awareness events, bingo sessions, a Men's Club, Line Dancing classes, 1:1 IT sessions and exercise classes, we also ran a monthly craft group, a Friendship Group for our most vulnerable members and organised a variety of day trips. In addition to this we also run our Christmas Savings Club and provide Christmas and a St Patrick's lunches for 200 members. Co-Vid restrictions meant that for most of the year we were unable to engage with any of our members in person, but there were brief periods when we were able to organise socially distanced line dancing classes and we started a Zoom exercise class. This was quite challenging as the technology was very new to us and we had to show our members how to access this remotely. When the restrictions lifted slightly, we had in-person exercise classes whilst maintain socially distancing, members were so appreciative of this as they had been confined to their homes for so long and were often struggling to stay motivated. Social engagements are so important to help reduce the effects of isolation so we did everything we could to engage with members. We worked very closely with Stevenage Football Club Foundation and they helped us produce leaflets giving members details of gentle exercises, quizzes and fun activities that they could do whilst staying at home. We were also able to arrange small group walks around our local lakes when outside group exercise was permissible. It has been such a difficult year but what kept us motivated was the impact of the support we were providing was having on our members and we know we were a lifeline for many.

We were so disappointed when we had to cancel our Christmas Lunch as this is one of the highlights of the year but we were so fortunate to receive funding from the Chauncy Charity and donations from Baldock Tesco which enabled us to create some lovely Christmas hampers which we hand-delivered to our members. We also had to cancel our St Patrick's Day lunch but were able to use funding for the Lottery to provide St Patrick's Day gift bags and we were honored to be helped by the Sherriff of Hertfordshire with the deliveries!
As soon as the restrictions came into place we quickly organised a remote Craft Group to allow our members to improve on their existing craft skills or learn new ones. This was a great success and our group donated many items to the local hospitals, hospices and other charitable groups. It gave them a great feeling of satisfaction being able to give something back. No one knew when the restrictions were going to be lifted so it was very hard for us to plan anything, but we did our best to support our members in every way that we could. The last year has been the most challenging year so far for our more vulnerable members. The restrictions on their freedom and their ability to see friends and family will have an everlasting impact. We quickly saw that it was so important to reach out to our vulnerable members as often as possible and we did this by establish a bank of volunteers to make regular phone calls. We quickly realised that it wasn't just our members that had been previously supported by our Care in the Community programme, but all our members that appreciated the contact. So we expanded our telephone befriending scheme to include all members this was a huge undertaking and required a lot of commitment from our volunteers. We know for some members, we were often the only call they got all day, for some it was all week. So we had to ensure that we could commit to the level of support we were offering. We are pleased to say that our volunteers provided excellent support, which ranged from regular phone calls, to organising food shopping, paying bills for those members that were shielding and even providing technology that could be used to engage with family and friends. During this financial year we made over 9000 calls to members, many of these on a weekly basis. Sometimes it was very challenging, we did not know when the restrictions would be changed and it was hard for some members to have hope, but we persevered and identified those members that were struggling the most, we supported them by being a constant and dependable contact. Everyone we called said that we had brightened their day, and this made all the hard work worthwhile.

One of the most challenging aspects was not being able to visit members in hospital, or at care homes or hospices, our volunteers found this very difficult, and we created a peer support group amongst them so they could share their concerns and support each other. We held a remembrance mass for those that were lost to us during Co-Vid, which was offered up for 70 people, this gives an indication of how our members and volunteers have been directly impacted by the pandemic.

Our volunteers have also made phone calls to statutory and non-statutory agencies on our member's behalf, dealing with agencies can be a daunting prospect, so we try and help whenever we can.
We also managed to take some of our vulnerable members out on a day trip to the gardens of a stately home, this was a lovely day and our members enjoyed themselves immensely. We are planning on having lots of more day trips when we are allowed and look forward to working very closely with Stepping Out who facilitate these trips.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Charity's income for the year was £76,099 (2020: £88,936) and expenditure of £59,500 (2020: £69,787), giving a net income of £16,599 (2020: £19,149)

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Charity to maintain funds, which are free reserves of the Charity, at a level which takes account of inflation

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a constitution adopted June 2012, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

This is through an open and transparent process in line with the requirement of the charity. New trustees are nominated by existing trustees to fulfill any specific need within the board.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 22-9-21 and signed on its behalf by:

L Donovan - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Irish Network Stevenage

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Irish Network Stevenage (the Charity) for the year ended 31st May 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

M R Hubbocks FCA
Wags LLP t/a Wagstaffs
Richmond House
Walkern Road
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 3QP

Date: .....

IRISH NETWORK STEVENAGE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Year Ended 31/5/21 Total funds £	Period 31/5/19 to 31/5/20 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		**190**	**71,865**	**72,055**	73,255
Other trading activities	2	**-**	**4,044**	**4,044**	15,681
Total		**190**	**75,909**	**76,099**	88,936
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		**1,293**	**58,207**	**59,500**	69,787
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		**(1,103)**	**17,702**	**16,599**	19,149
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**79,256**	**27,948**	**107,204**	88,055
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**78,153**	**45,650**	**123,803**	107,204

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
31ST MAY 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at bank		**78,153**	**53,850**	**132,003**	118,569
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	5	-	**(8,200)**	**(8,200)**	(11,365)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**78,153**	**45,650**	**123,803**	107,204
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**78,153**	**45,650**	**123,803**	107,204
NET ASSETS		**78,153**	**45,650**	**123,803**	107,204
FUNDS	6				
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund				**4,401**	7,712
Designated fund				**73,752**	71,544
				78,153	79,256
Restricted funds				**45,650**	27,948
TOTAL FUNDS				**123,803**	107,204

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 22-9-22 and were signed on its behalf by:

L Donovan - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

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

Expenditure

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

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

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

Designated funds are those unrestricted funds which have been set aside by trustees for an essential spend or future purpose.

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

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

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Year Ended 31/5/21	Period 31/5/19 to 31/5/20
	£	£
Fundraising events	4,044	15,681

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

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

Trustees' expenses

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

4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	1,732	71,523	73,255
Other trading activities	-	15,681	15,681
Total	1,732	87,204	88,936
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	20	69,767	69,787
NET INCOME	1,712	17,437	19,149
Transfers between funds	71,862	(71,862)	-
Net movement in funds	73,574	(54,425)	19,149
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	5,682	82,373	88,055
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	79,256	27,948	107,204

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other creditors	8,200	11,365

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/6/20	Net movement in funds	At 31/5/21
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	7,711	(3,310)	4,401
Designated fund	71,545	2,207	73,752
	79,256	(1,103)	78,153
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	27,948	17,702	45,650
TOTAL FUNDS	107,204	16,599	123,803

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

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	(2,551)	(759)	(3,310)
Designated fund	2,741	(534)	2,207
	190	(1,293)	(1,103)
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	75,909	(58,207)	17,702
TOTAL FUNDS	76,099	(59,500)	16,599

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 31/5/19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/5/20 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	5,682	1,712	318	7,712
Designated fund	-	-	71,544	71,544
	5,682	1,712	71,862	79,256
Restricted funds				
Restricted Fund	82,373	17,437	(71,862)	27,948
TOTAL FUNDS	88,055	19,149	-	107,204

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,732	(20)	1,712
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	87,204	(69,767)	17,437
TOTAL FUNDS	88,936	(69,787)	19,149

7. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st May 2021 (2020: None).

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2021

	Year Ended 31/5/21 £	Period 31/5/19 to 31/5/20 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	722	2,918
Grants	71,333	70,337
	72,055	73,255
Other trading activities		
Fundraising events	4,044	15,681
Total incoming resources	76,099	88,936
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Sundries	900	265
Cost of events	18,202	20,219
Professional fees	5,203	6,010
	24,305	26,494
Other trading activities		
Room Hire	3,259	3,619
Wages	26,284	28,558
Volunteer Expenses	1,943	2,087
Office costs	3,709	9,029
	35,195	43,293
Total resources expended	59,500	69,787
Net income	16,599	19,149