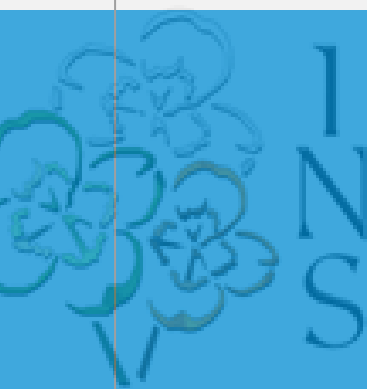


Irish Network Stevenage

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

Date of Inception:

November 2007

Registered Office

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

Date of Charity Registration

November 2012

Charity Registration Number

1149576

Trustees

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

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 area 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.

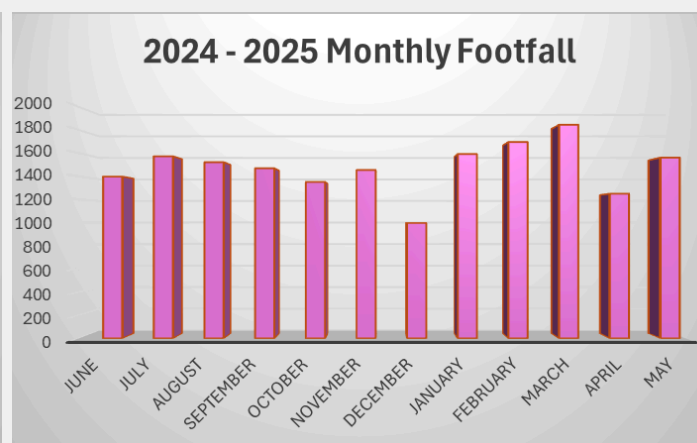
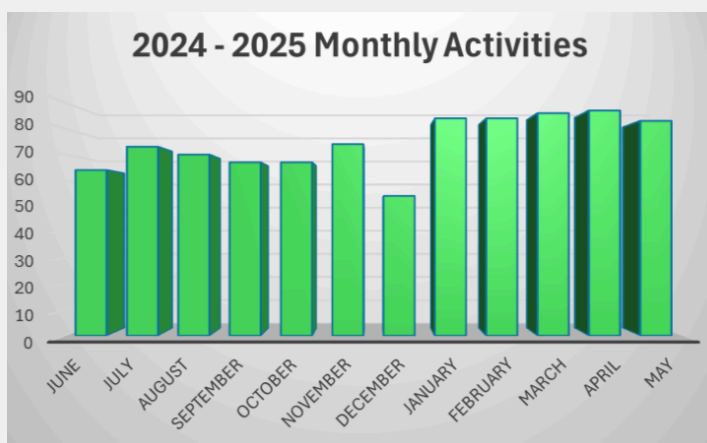


Treasurer's Report cont.

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

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

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 21/9-25 and signed on its behalf by:

Signature <u>M. Lyons</u>	Name <u>M LYONS</u>
Signature <u>[Signature]</u>	Name <u>M KING</u>

Approved by the independent examiner on _____

Signature <u>[Signature]</u>	Name <u>Mrs S J Hudson</u>
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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