

# COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1150290

## Details

---

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	<a href="#">08235510</a>
Registered	2012-12-27
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

---

Address	2nd Floor Eaton House Eaton Road Coventry CV1 2FJ
Phone	02476256629
Email	<a href="mailto:cis@covirishsoc.org.uk">cis@covirishsoc.org.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.coventryirishsociety.com">www.coventryirishsociety.com</a>

## Activities

---

**Objects:** 1)TO PROMOTE THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF COVENTRY AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD THEREOF (HEREINAFTER CALLED " THE AREA OF BENEFIT") AND IN PARTICULAR BUT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE GENERALITY OF THE FORGOING THE IRISH COMMUNITY WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RACE OR OF POLITICAL RELIGIOUS OR OTHER OPINIONS, BY ASSOCIATING TOGETHER THE SAID INHABITANTS AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES , VOLUNTARY AND OTHER ORGANISATION IN A COMMON EFFORT TO ADVANCE EDUCATION RELIEVE POVERTY AND SICKNESS AND TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION AND OTHER LEISURE-TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE SAID INHABITANTS2) TO ESTABLISH OR SECURE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY CENTRE ( HEREINAFTER CALLED THE COVENTRY IRISH CENTRE) AND MAINTAIN AND MANAGE THE SAME, WHETHER ALONE OR IN CO-OPERATION WITH ANY LOCAL AUTHORITY OR OTHER PERSON OR BODY IN THE FURTHERANCE OF THESE OBJECTS.

**Activities:** Providing a wide range of health, welfare and cultural services to the Irish community in Coventry and the surrounding areas

## Classification

---

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Accommodation/housing, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin

## Geography

---

- Birmingham City
- Coventry City
- Leicestershire
- Warwickshire

## Finances

---

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£142,524	£108,284	-	-
2023-12-31	£74,704	£100,737	-	-
2022-12-31	£92,562	£77,309	-	-
2021-12-31	£65,009	£64,646	-	-
2020-12-31	£95,802	£90,053	-	-

## Trustees

---

Name	Role	Appointed
Hayley Louise McCarthy		2025-10-14
KATHLEEN FORREST		2012-12-21
MISS KATE MCCARTHY		2012-12-21
MRS JO ADDLETON		2012-12-21
Rory Ryan		2016-02-22

**COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1150290

---

# Accounts

---



# Coventry

Irish

Society



**Annual Report 2023**





## Rory Ryan Chair



### Dár gcairde agus ár gcomhaltaí go léir

To all our dear friends and members,



It's been a very busy period since we last met for our AGM. We have seen a hive of activity from within the Society ranging from youth outreach, Health & Wellbeing, Survivors and a new employee base.

Within the last 18 months or so we have been on a campaign to breathe more life into the Charity that we all love. I am happy to say that we are steadily succeeding in completing this campaign. With record numbers of inclusion and more memberships obtained through outreach to 2nd and 3rd generation within the Irish community of Coventry.

I am excited about what the next 18 months will bring to the society. I am immensely proud of the hard work that Simon and the team have put in over this period. The Office is now acting more like an Irish Heritage Centre and a Cultural Hub for all our events, members and heritage projects.

I also want to thank our wonderful Trustee group who give their free time to participating, leading and advocating the society. We have been fortunate to have had tremendous support from all our Associate business members that have looked after us from sponsoring to advice. My deepest thank you to you all!

My main thanks will always go to our loyal members, and groups from the Friendship Group to the Claddagh Group, these members are the heart of society and we are where we are because of their unwavering support.

We are delighted to obtain a 3-year extension to our Tenancy at Eaton House, taking us up to May 2028. We are extremely grateful to Friargate Projects and the City Council for their support and to the Charity 'Avire' that arranges the Tenancy

As always my gratitude will always go to the Emigrant Support Programme (ESP) from Ireland for their continued financial support as our primary funder. This year ESP have included an additional £6,000 for Irish Survivors Lunch Clubs which is so important for the Survivors Group. Also thanks again to the Ireland Fund of Great Britain that have offered the Charity fantastic support by funding our new Mental Health Worker Siobhan. Also greatly appreciated funding from the Big Lottery again to fund the Survivors Lunch Clubs and Outings.

We have a lot to look forward to in the coming months and this will all start with the launch of our new promotional films which can be viewed on Youtube with links to the films on our website and social media sites. Hearing the importance of the Charity's work from our service users gives us all the inspiration to drive the Charity forward. Thank you to Charlie Byfield for creating the films.

Mise le meas,

**Rory Ryan - Chair**

## Managers Report



The Charity continues to focus its attention on supporting the vulnerable members of the Irish community. 98 people, many of whom are vulnerable have received significant support from the charity in the previous 12 months as part of our caseworker projects. In addition, our day to day enquiries, Irish Passports, Utility bills, Welfare and Health enquiries has provided a service to more than 1300 people in the last 12 months. Irish Passport and Citizenship enquiries now account for around 50% of all day to day enquiries. There is a significant increase in 3rd Generation Irish obtaining Irish Citizenship.

I'm pleased to announce the publication of our 2 new promotional films that demonstrate the vital work of the Charity from the perspective of our service users. The films are an important development for the Charity to enable the Irish community and funders to understand the importance of our work (Press release on page 9). Thank you to Charlie Byfield for great work!

Our Irish Survivors support service continues to help 60 Survivors across the Midlands. We have supported 16 of those Survivors to obtain payments from the Mother and Baby Home Payments Scheme. In addition, we have conducted a number of Lunch Clubs with an average of 45 attendees. We were delighted to take 35 of the Survivors group on holiday to County Wicklow in June 2025. This was made possible by an anonymous donation of £10,000 from an individual passionate about the group.

We were also delighted to relaunch our 'Betty Hunter Dementia Support Group' 'Betty's Friends' named in tribute to the late Betty Hunter, who was so brilliant at providing Dementia support services in Coventry. Betty's company 'Care Associates' have again been a main supporter of the Charity at our annual ball 2025, which is fantastic news!. Thank you to Gez and Helen Hunter for your support!

Also a big thank you to the Ireland Fund of Great Britain that fund our new worker Siobhan to organise the Dementia Group and our new Walking Group.

The Claddagh Group every Tuesday 12pm-2pm, and the Friendship Group every Friday 12pm-2pm continue to meet at Eaton House both groups are going strong! They are a fantastic groups with around 50 members on Tuesdays and 25 members on Fridays, new members are always welcome.

Our Lunch Clubs are still well attended and we look forward to next 3 events at Christ the King on 24th October, 21st November and the 19th December.

We continue to host Irish Language Classes with an intermediate group meeting on Thursday evenings and an online group courtesy of Dr Ian Malcolm.

Our Oral History exhibition 'Irish Heart, Coventry Home'. Is on permanent display at the Charity, and was this year featured as part of the Coventry Heritage days. We also created a second exhibition space for temporary exhibitions and were delighted to host the Peace Heroines in 2025.

Our E-Newsletter continues to build subscribers and is a facility for the whole Irish community to communicate their news and events. Please do subscribe by visiting our website.

Our 32nd Anniversary Summer Ball at Christ the King was a great success! Thank you to all our friends and stakeholders that supported the event! The event raised £4,000 which is our highest total yet.

I would like to thank our main funder the 'Emigrant Support Programme' for all their fantastic support of the charity and the Irish community in Coventry and Warwickshire. Also, to our other funders the 'Big Lottery and the 'Ireland Fund of Great Britain' and the City Council. I would like to thank our Trustees that support the charity as volunteers, our dedicated staff team and our honorary president David Cairns, who continues to support the charity (aged 92!) Mostly to thank our members, volunteers, and clients and associates for their contribution to the charity. We are grateful for the opportunity to support you and will continue to do our best to provide an exceptional service.

**Simon McCarthy—CEO**

## LIZ FLANNELLY HEALTH OUTREACH WORKER



In November of 2024, I began my role as Coventry Irish Society's Health Outreach Worker. This follows a ten year tenure as a trustee, and years of experience running pubs such as Flannelly's and The Park Gate. Because of this, I am able to bring a variety of skills to my work with the charity, particularly when it comes to assisting with regular events like our Lunch Clubs, as well as one-off events such as our Saint Patrick's Day Lunch Club.

Working within the Irish community over the years has enabled me to form close bonds with its members; this helped the process of joining the staff team at CIS, as I was met by a lot of familiar faces. My work with the wider Irish community in Coventry was recognised recently at our Annual Ball, where I was given an award for outstanding service to the Irish community in Coventry, in particular for supporting social projects and befriending within the society.

My main responsibility is support clients with Irish Passport and Citizenship applications. This includes assisting clients to obtain all the required documentation, helping them to determine whether they are eligible for a Passport/Citizenship, and often, going through the application process with them on a one-to-one basis. I have also recently been given dispensation to witness Irish Passport applications, which will enable me to support even more clients going forward.

I am also responsible for providing free information, advice, and support to clients regarding Healthcare and Welfare supports. Since I've joined, I have helped clients with concerns about pensions, benefits, housing, and a range of other topics. In order to increase my knowledge on these issues, I have completed training courses on benefits such as Universal Credit and PIP, as well as one centred on supporting the Irish community with Dementia and Memory Loss.

I continue to engage with the local Irish community outside of work, and every Saturday I volunteer at the charity's allotment where I work alongside a team of fellow volunteers headed up by Tommy Cleary. Together, we help to grow some of the produce that is distributed amongst CIS members at the office every week.

**Liz Flannelly**

**Health Outreach Worker**

# Manisha O' Malley

## Survivors Outreach Worker



Dia daoibh a chairde,

I would like to start by saying ‘go raibh míle maith agaibh’ (thank you very much) to all the staff, trustees, and members who have offered me such a warm welcome and heaps of support since I first joined the charity in September 2024. Over the last twelve months, I am proud to say that I have contributed to the amazing work carried out by the Midlands Irish Survivors Service.

This summer was exceptionally busy. We visited the Irish Embassy in London, where Survivors enjoyed an Afternoon Tea with the Ambassador, who also gave us a private tour of the Embassy. We also took Survivors on a wonderful holiday to Wicklow, where we enjoyed day trips in Glendalough, Dublin, and

Wexford. The Sunny Southeast treated us very well.

We have also been part of some very interesting and constructive projects. In May, we welcomed Professor Geraldine Brady and Dr. Verusca Calabria from Nottingham Trent University to our office where they carried out a reminiscence session with Survivors. This work is part of a larger Oral History Project, which (dependent on funding) will give Survivors living in the Midlands the opportunity to tell their stories individually, and in their own words. These recordings will then be archived in perpetuity for future generations to listen to and read, ensuring that what happened to Survivors is never forgotten.

We continue to meet regularly with the Department of Children, the Irish Embassy, Patricia Carey (Special Advocate for Survivors of Institutional abuse), and with the three other organisations in Britain supporting Irish Survivors. These meetings serve to maintain contact with decision makers on both sides of the Irish Sea to demand more supports for Survivors. Earlier this year, we worked with Liam Conlon MP on *Philomena's Law*, which (if passed) will support former residents of Ireland's Mother and Baby Homes now living in Britain. The best way to support this is to contact your local MP; we have email/letter templates available for anyone who would like one.

Over the last two months, we have created three new social media accounts for the Midlands Irish Survivors Service. We encourage you all to join us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and X (formerly twitter), where you can stay up to date with our work.

Our talented intern Charlie Byfield created the wonderful promotional film for Coventry Irish Society, which many of you will have seen at our Annual Ball. I had the privilege to contribute to this film, speaking about the importance of the service. Charlie also made another film, interviewing a group of our clients. It is now available to watch on YouTube and can be found on all our social media channels.

Looking to the future, we're working in partnership with Fréa: Renewing Roots, London Irish Centre, and Barnardos Ireland to present an online training webinar on the Irish Government's Action Plan for Survivors taking place on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

I'll be providing advice on the Payment Scheme on behalf of Coventry Irish Society. The webinar is free to anyone who would like to learn more about these issues. Going into 2026, my goals are to grow the reach of the service, and to raise awareness of the incredibly important work we do here at Coventry Irish Society. Being able to work within our fantastic community every day is such a blessing.

**Le grá (with love),**  
**Manisha O'Malley**

# Caroline Brogan

## PA to Manager

### **Dia daoibh a chairde,**



I joined the staff team at Coventry Irish in August 2024. I'm so grateful to everyone who has made me so welcome, and who has supported me over the past year, joining the Charity Sector, from the Legal Services Sector, after 25 successful years in Private Practice. I have always wanted to help people, and a career in law was a natural starting point for me; I qualified as a Solicitor in 2006, and my journey took me on a wonderful pathway, including advocating for human rights and the marginalised. I managed free legal advice clinics at the Birmingham Irish Association for several years, which drew me in to volunteering, in my spare time, with Birmingham Irish; eventually spending four years as a Trustee with the Birmingham Irish Association (2019 – 2023), and joining the Executive Committee of The West Midlands Irish Business Group (2020 – Present).

I am very proud of my Irish roots and the diaspora community; my grandad, John Brogan, came to Coventry from Foxford, County Mayo, and worked at The Jag. My nan, Annie Brogan (nee O'Neill) came to Coventry from Drogheda.

I have been learning Irish for several years, which has taken me on a beautiful journey, connecting me with my identity, and our culture and heritage. I was so proud to achieve my *Fáinne Airgid* earlier this year; it means so much to me. It was a huge honour for me to be asked by the Irish Embassy to speak, in Irish, on a panel, alongside former Minister for the Diaspora, Joe McHugh, and Writer, Ciara Broderick, earlier this year, at the Embassy, about learning Irish as an adult and how this can be done. It was another “pinch me moment”, when I was asked by University College Dublin, to give a speech, in Irish, at the launch of this year's Irish Language Summer School. It brings me so much joy to speak and to hear Irish. It was so heartening to see so many people from Coventry, and beyond, join us for the *Lá Mór na Gaeilge* (Irish Language Day) in March, which included a bilingual walking tour of historic Coventry, and to start up a *Ciorcal Comhrá* (Conversation Circle), in September. There are so many more Irish language activities planned, for all levels and all ages. *Ardaíonn sé mo chroí!* (It lifts my heart!)

It's been a fantastic year to be at Coventry Irish, with so many wonderful achievements, from the Irish Ambassador opening our Mo Mowlam Library, to so many important events, including being asked by The Embassy to host *The Peace Heroines Exhibition*, and hosting our Mo Mowlam Afternoon Tea. It is a privilege to have achieved funding, and the trust of The Irish Government's Department of Foreign Affairs' Reconciliation Fund, to manage our “*Project Phoenix*”, which includes advocating The Good Friday Agreement. The Good Friday Agreement is undoubtedly the greatest achievement of our lifetime and it is in our hands to protect it and make sure it is fully implemented.

***Le gach dea-ghuí (with every good wish)***

**Caroline**

# Siobhan Sexton

## Mental Health Worker

### **Betty's Friends – Dementia Support Group**



*In July 2025, I joined Coventry Irish Society to take the lead on setting up and running a new dementia support group, hosted by CIS and held weekly at Eaton House. This group was inspired by the much loved Betty Hunter Dementia Group, which had offered a safe and welcoming space for people living with dementia and their carers before Covid.*

*It has been a real pleasure to re-establish the group in Betty's honour, and I've named it "Betty's Friends" to reflect the warmth, friendship, and sense of community that she created.*

*Betty's Friends is more than just a support group it's a place where people can connect, share, and feel understood. We also celebrate Irish identity, heritage, and culture, which I believe plays a big part in supporting the wellbeing and sense of belonging for many of our older members.*

*Each week, we run a mix of activities including gentle exercise, memory games, music, and creative projects. One of our main ongoing activities is the "This Is Me" project, where each member creates a personal record of their life story through photos and memories. It's been lovely to see how this helps people express themselves and strengthens connections within the group.*

*The feedback so far has been really positive. Members and carers often tell me how much they look forward to coming each week and how much they enjoy the friendly atmosphere. There's always plenty of laughter, tea, and good conversation — it truly feels like a community.*

### **Wellness Walks**

*As well as running the dementia group, I have also set up a new walking programme called "Wellness Walks." Our weekly walks take place in War Memorial Park and are designed to be low impact and inclusive for everyone.*

*The walks focus on the importance of gentle exercise to boost energy, improve mood, and support both physical and mental wellbeing ....with a good old chat along the way!*

*We've been running the programme for eight weeks now and already have 15 walkers signed up, with between 5–8 regular attendees each week. It's been lovely to see people enjoying the fresh air, making new friends, and feeling the benefits of staying active together.*

*We also plan to expand our walks with a new monthly event called "Wellness Ramble." This will be a longer walk in and around Coventry and the surrounding areas, finishing with a social lunch. It's aimed at our more able walkers who want to challenge themselves a little more while still enjoying the friendly, supportive spirit of the group.*

*Looking ahead, I'd love to continue growing both Betty's Friends and Wellness Walks, reaching more people who could benefit from these activities. I'm especially keen to build stronger links with local GP surgeries, memory clinics, and community organisations so we can share information, support more families, and keep promoting positive wellbeing across our community.*

*Both projects have quickly become valued parts of Coventry Irish Society, and I'm proud of how far we've come in such a short time. I look forward to building on this success in the year ahead continuing to offer spaces filled with friendship, understanding, and Irish warmth.*

*I'd like to take the opportunity to Thank everyone at Coventry Irish Society for the warm and friendly welcome since starting my role and I look forward to the year ahead*

**Siobhan Sexton Mental Health Worker**

# Gráinne Fellowes Digital Officer



Since 2022 I have been working with Coventry Irish Society as Digital Officer, supporting the organisation's digital strategy and ensuring our charity's voice is represented and amplified across our digital suite, including Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn, website, and e-marketing platforms.

This role focuses on using the latest insights to strengthen Coventry Irish Society's digital presence, connect with new audiences and amplify community outreach. Over the past year, this has included:

- Ongoing development and maintenance of the website.
- Digital strategy for our mailing lists and monthly e-newsletter, which now reaches a growing audience of members and supporters.
- Expanding our social media reach by sharing community news, events, and updates from Coventry Irish and our partner organisations.
- Developing a new Instagram platform to diversify the charity's audience development and connect with new audience groups.
- Development of design and brand work for events promotion, including digital flyers, social and web assets

In 2024/5, our monthly e-newsletter continued to thrive thanks to contributions from dedicated volunteers, including **Kate O'Mahony**, whose articles have added great insight and depth to our content. I would also like to thank **Sakal Paul** who has been a fantastic help in providing additional digital support and expertise over the past year.

As we look ahead to 2026, my focus is on further developing our digital platforms to support membership growth for our new family membership, increasing online donations through compelling digital storytelling, and ensuring the voice of Coventry Irish Society is amplified to showcase the breadth and diversity of the Charity's output.

**Le gach dea-ghuí,  
Gráinne Fellowes**

## Coventry Irish Society Launches Films to Secure Permanent Self Sustaining Irish Heritage Centre

Coventry Irish Society is pleased to announce the publication of 2 new promotional films about the Charity's work with the aim of securing a permanent Irish Heritage Centre.

The films highlight both the current work of the Charity and what the organisation has achieved since the Charity's inception in 1993, including supporting 500 Irish Survivors through Redress.

The films document the impact of the Charity's work from the people that it supports and is a powerful testimony to the vital work of the Charity.

Rory Ryan Coventry Irish Society Chair said "This isn't just Charity, it's an investment in the future. We need a permanent home that allows us to generate our own income and become fully independent and sustainable for decades to come".

The Charity provides health and welfare information, support and advice to the Irish community in Coventry and Warwickshire and the wider Midlands as one of 3 specialist services in Britain supporting Irish Survivors. The Charity specialises in Irish Passports and Citizenship and works with a variety of vulnerable groups including Irish Survivors and Irish Travellers.

The promotional films are available for viewing on YouTube with links to the films on the Charity's website

[www.coventryirishsociety.com](http://www.coventryirishsociety.com) and its social media sites.

### **Notes to Editors**

The links to the films are on Youtube

#### **Main film**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsQKS7UCotA>

Irish Survivors Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yi7ZDha3SWA>

# Statement of Financial Activities 2024

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account For Year Ended December 31 <sup>st</sup> 2024						
	U Funds	R Funds	2024	U Funds	R Funds	2023
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
Donations and Fundraising	17,880		17,880	8,137		8,137
Membership & Sales	10,944		10,944	900		900
Emigrant Support Programme Less Clawback - . Note 2 (2024 = Nil)		93,000	93,000		59,536	59,536
UK Lottery/Covid Grant		18,700	18,700			Nil
Other Grants	200	1,800	2,000		6,131	6,131
Total incoming resources	29,024	113,500	142,524	9,037	65,667	74,704
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>						
Staff costs (including NI)	8,339	75,051	83,390		76,109	76,109
Survivors' Project		12,945	12,945		2,359	2,359
Gaelic Classes (net cost)	840		840			
Other Projects & Charitable Activities				6,532		6,532
Other expenses and support costs	4,695	4,694	9,389	13,412		13,412
Office Rent/Premises	860	860	1,720		2,325	2,325
Total resources expended,	14,734	93,550	108,284	19,944	80,793	100,737
Surplus/(Deficit) Net outgoing resources	14,290	19,950	34,240	(10,907)	(15,126)	(26,033)

## **DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: EMIGRANT SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

*Department of Foreign Affairs: The Emigrant Support Programme received grant of €93,000 for the year from 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025. The funds were restricted for the following projects: Outreach Project £90,000, Lunch Club £2,000, St. Patrick's Day £1000. Six months of this grant income was utilised in the period to 31st December 2024. Six months grant income amounting to £46,670 has been deferred to the 2025 financial year and will be utilised by 30th June 2025.*

# Balance Sheet 2024

## COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY - BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2024

	2024		2023	
FIXED ASSETS (Net Book Value) See Note 3 below		15		23
CURRENT ASSETS				
Bank and cash	79,359		47,615	
Total Current Assets				
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Deferred income (ESP Grant) see Note 2	(46,500)		46,500	
Sundry Creditors	(237)		(845)	
PAYE & NI	(1,237)		(2,020)	
Total Current Liabilities	(47,974)		(49,365)	
Net Current Assets Working Capital	31,385	31,385	(2,865)	(2,865)
TOTAL NET ASSETS/(DEFICIT)		31,398	(2,842)	(2,842)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		34,240		(26,033)
Fund Balances Brought Forward		(2,842)		23,191
Fund Balances Carried Forward		31,398		(2,842)
FUNDS - See Note 4				
Unrestricted funds		84,769		(67,661)
Restricted funds		(53,371)		64,819
TOTAL		31,398		(2,842)

### NOTE 3. Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arises for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 nor for any previous periods.

NOTE 4. Funds	Opening Balances 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	Movement in Resources		Closing Balances 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024
		In	(Out)	
Unrestricted funds	(67 661)	29,024	(14,734)	(53,371)
Restricted funds	64 819	113,500	(93,550)	84,769
Total Funds	(2 842)	142,524	(108,284)	31,398



# Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí  
Cork City Council



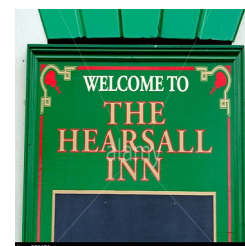
# EAMON NIXON

PLANT HIRE LTD

Noel Kelly  
Solicitor



The Four Provinces  
Coventry's Premier Irish Venue



The Claddagh  
Group

Irish Friendship  
Group

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024

Charity No: 1150290

Company No: 08235510

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Chairperson's Report & Report of the Trustees	3
Report of the Independent Accountants	5
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	10

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024

COMPANY INFORMATION:

TRUSTEES:

Rory Ryan  
Josephine Addleton  
Kathleen McCarthy  
Kay Forrest  
Majella O'Brien  
Hayley McCarthy

REGISTERED OFFICE:

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Eaton House  
Eaton Road  
Coventry  
CV1 2FJ

REGISTERED NUMBER: 08235510 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1150290

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT: Simon Horsman

## COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT & REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024

Dear Members

Coventry Irish Society is an organisation which works predominantly with older Irish people with a specific target to support the vulnerable Irish. Our overall aim is to alleviate poverty, improve health and address social isolation in our local Irish community.

CIS is made up of Trustees, Employees & Volunteers, but the beating heart of our Charity is our members and their passion to continuously keep alive our Irish heritage in the city that we call home.

The Charity will continue to prioritise the needs of the vulnerable Irish by targeting resources to ensure that our vulnerable community's health and welfare needs are being met. In addition to day to day advice and outreach services the Charity will conduct a half day per week Dementia Support Service to ensure this objective is being met. The Charity continues to prioritise Irish Survivors in the Midlands having secured funding for Irish Survivors specialist services in the previous 3 years. Currently, this project has 70 clients with 18 applications to the Mother and Baby Home completed.

General advice will continue to provide support for people seeking Irish citizenship, Irish Passports, and general welfare enquiries such as help with utility bills, Council Tax etc. The Charity's new rent free premises on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Eaton House, Eaton Road, Coventry has allowed us to host all our day to day services as well as exhibit our Oral History project 'Irish Heart, Coventry Home'. The premises create a great space for social befriending and events as well as new opportunities for volunteers and visitors. We were delighted to add the 'Irish Friendship Group' to our portfolio of services. The group now meets at the Charity every Friday 12pm-2pm.

There is now a café atmosphere along with the history exhibition. We are extremely grateful to 'Avire' the Charity that organised this move for us and to 'Friargate Projects' Ltd that have given us a new 3 year contract taking us up to May 2028.

We continue to strive to engage with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Irish signing them up as members and on our E-mailing list.

I would like to thank our main long-term funder the 'Emigrant Support Programme' for their commitment to the Irish community and the Charity, as well as some of our other long term and recent funders, The Ireland Fund of Great Britain, The National Lottery Community Fund and the Big Lottery for their fantastic support to the Irish community. Mostly I would like to thank all our members, clients, and volunteers for their support of the Charity.

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act submit their Report together with the reviewed Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 in preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

The Charity is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee and was set up on 1st October 2012 and commenced to trade on 1st January 2013. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Objectives

The Charity's objectives are:

- to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Coventry and surrounding areas with particular reference to those who are Irish or of Irish descent;
- to relieve sickness and old age, preserve and protect good health and advance education and training;

- to address issues of deprivation, social exclusion and isolation related to poor health and old age, preserve and protect good mental and physical health and spiritual well-being;
- to promote culturally appropriate housing, health and social welfare services and recreational and other leisure time occupations with the object of improving the quality for the said inhabitants.

#### Risks management

The Trustees conduct their own review of major risks to which the Charity is exposed, these procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the Charity and are as follows:

- an annual review of the risks which the Charity may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified;
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should any of the risks materialise.

#### Financial Review and Reserves Policy

The company's "results" and position at 31st December 2024 are set out in the accounts on pages 7 to 11.

#### Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Coventry Irish Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charitable Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

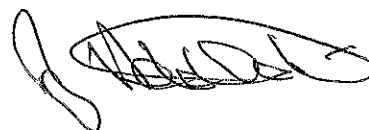
The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charitable Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant Audit information of which the Charitable Company's Auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant Audit information and to establish that the Auditor is aware of that information.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees by:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairperson



Print name: Chair- Rory Ryan  
 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Josephine Addleton Treasurer  
 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

## **2024 - Independent Accountant's Report on the Accounts**

I have both prepared the financial statements of the Coventry Irish Society (CIS). The circumstances whereby this has come about are discussed in Section 4 of this report. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

This report is made wholly to the CIS Trustees on the examination of the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and reporting accountant.**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibility Statement, the trustees (who, for the purposes of company law, are also the directors of the charitable company) are responsible for the records from which these accounts have been prepared. Normally, they would also be responsible for preparing the accounts, leaving the independent accountant merely the task of reviewing the accounts, but this year that was not possible and the independent accountant has prepared the accounts and take responsibility for them showing a true and fair view, subject to the note below. In doing so I have followed applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

### **Scope of the accounts**

The accounts concerned are in accordance with the underlying books and records of the organisation and have been verified with reference to external documents (e.g. bank statements) where this is feasible. Being acceptable to us, I have not changed any accounting policies from past years. have not received a trustees' report for the year and so have no comment to make.

### **Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern".**

The situation as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 was unchanged from earlier years so I am using the text from 2018 prepared by Mark Holmes and me. For clarity it is italicised. The figures we inherited from the years to December 2013 and 2014 were both subject to audit qualifications. In these circumstances we are unable to satisfy ourselves as to the appropriateness of the original figures and in particular the analysis of restricted and unrestricted funds. This impacts on later figures, especially the analysis of the capital funds on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 (the first period for which we were acting as independent accountants) as at the earlier year ends. On the other hand, readers may wish to note and take some comfort from the fact that funders have not responded to these qualified figures in such a way as to indicate that they were unhappy with the position revealed and ten years have since elapsed.

It is also necessary to state that in determining whether Coventry Irish Society ("CIS") is a going concern the accountant must be mindful that, like many charitable bodies, CIS's activities in both scale and direction are driven by the grants it is awarded. Changes in grants will impact CIS's future activities. This is not to say that CIS would not be able to continue but that its scope will always have to be adjusted to its resources.

Qualified Opinion on the financial statements.

In my opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern" paragraphs, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the charitable company's affairs at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK generally accepted accounting Practice (applicable to smaller entities), and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed: *SJLH Horsman*

Print name: SIMON HORSMAN

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
(Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account  
For Year Ended December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Donations and Fundraising	17,880		17,880	8,137
Membership & Sales	10,944		10,944	900
Emigrant Support Programme Less Clawback - Note 2 (2024 Clawback = Nil)		93,000	93,000	59,536
UK Lottery/Covid Grant		18,700	18,700	Nil
Other Grants	200	1,800	2,000	6,131
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>29,024</b>	<b>113,500</b>	<b>142,524</b>	<b>74,704</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Staff costs (including NI)	8,339	75,051	83,390	76,109
Survivors' Project		12,945	12,945	2,359
Gaelic Classes (net cost)	840		840	
Other Projects & Charitable Activities				6,532
Other expenses and support costs	4,695	4694	9,389	13,412
Office Rent/Premises	860	860	1,720	2,325
<b>Total resources expended,</b>	<b>14,734</b>	<b>93,550</b>	<b>108,284</b>	<b>100,737</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) Net outgoing resources</b>	<b>14,290</b>	<b>19,950</b>	<b>34,240</b>	<b>(26,033)</b>

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY - BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2024

	2024		2023	
FIXED ASSETS (Net Book Value) See Note 3 below		15		23
CURRENT ASSETS				
Bank and cash	79,359		47,615	
Total Current Assets				
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Deferred income (ESP Grant) see Note 2	(46,500)		46,500	
Sundry Creditors	(237)		(845)	
PAYE & NI	(1,237)		(2,020)	
Total Current Liabilities	(47,974)		(49,365)	
Net Current Assets Working Capital	31,385	31,385	(2,865)	(2,865)
TOTAL NET ASSETS/(DEFICIT)		31,398		(2,842)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		34,240		(26,033)
Fund Balances Brought Forward		(2,842)		23,191
Fund Balances Carried Forward		31,398		(2,842)
FUNDS - See Note 4				
Unrestricted funds		84,769		(67,661)
Restricted funds		(53,371)		64,819
TOTAL		31,398		(2,842)

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

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

On behalf of the board

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

The annexed notes form part of these financial statements.

Company Number: 08235510

Charity Number: 1150290

Print Name: Rory Ryan.....

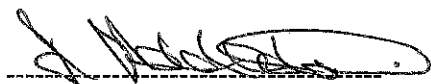
  

---

Chairperson

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Print name: Josephine Addleton

---

Treasurer

14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024

NOTE 1. Accounting policies

- (a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in July 2014 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).
- (b) The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis
- (c) Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in the full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. The value of the services provided by volunteers has been included.
- (d) Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are receivable.
- (e) Incoming resources from investments are included when receivable.
- (f) Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.
- (g) Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to the activity.
- (h) Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, which is estimated at five years for furniture, four years for office equipment and three years for computers.
- (i) Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- (j) Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.
- (k) Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.
- (l) Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

## Note 2 Emigrant Support Programme (ESP)

### *Background*

The Emigrant Support Programme funded by the Eireann Government makes up approximately 90% of the society's income so it is important that these monies are accounted for both correctly and transparently. The grants work on a year from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June so, in principle, given that the society works to the calendar year, half the grant will fall into the year it is received and half gets carried over to the following year. We say "in principle" because the timing of grants, especially if they are for specific purposes, can mean that simply halving the figure does not show a true and fair view.

*The Emigrant Support Programme received grant of €93,000 for the year from 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025. The funds were restricted for the following projects: Outreach Project £90,000, Lunch Club £2,000, St. Patrick's Day £1000. Six months of this grant income was utilised in the period to 31st December 2024. Six months grant income amounting to £46,670 has been deferred to the 2025 financial year and will be utilised by 30th June 2025.*

### **NOTE 3. Taxation**

No liability to UK corporation tax arises for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 nor for any previous periods.

NOTE 4. Funds	Opening Balances 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	Movement in Resources		Closing Balances 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024
		In	(Out)	
Unrestricted funds	(67 661)	29,024	(14,734)	(53,371)
Restricted funds	64 819	113,500	(93,550)	84,769
Total Funds	(2 842)	142,524	(108,284)	31,398

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024

Charity No: 1150290

Company No: 08235510

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Chairperson's Report & Report of the Trustees	3
Report of the Independent Accountants	5
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	10

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024

COMPANY INFORMATION:

TRUSTEES:

Rory Ryan  
Josephine Addleton  
Kathleen McCarthy  
Kay Forrest  
Majella O'Brien  
Hayley McCarthy

REGISTERED OFFICE:

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Eaton House  
Eaton Road  
Coventry  
CV1 2FJ

REGISTERED NUMBER: 08235510 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1150290

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT: Simon Horsman

## COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT & REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024

Dear Members

Coventry Irish Society is an organisation which works predominantly with older Irish people with a specific target to support the vulnerable Irish. Our overall aim is to alleviate poverty, improve health and address social isolation in our local Irish community.

CIS is made up of Trustees, Employees & Volunteers, but the beating heart of our Charity is our members and their passion to continuously keep alive our Irish heritage in the city that we call home.

The Charity will continue to prioritise the needs of the vulnerable Irish by targeting resources to ensure that our vulnerable community's health and welfare needs are being met. In addition to day to day advice and outreach services the Charity will conduct a half day per week Dementia Support Service to ensure this objective is being met. The Charity continues to prioritise Irish Survivors in the Midlands having secured funding for Irish Survivors specialist services in the previous 3 years. Currently, this project has 70 clients with 18 applications to the Mother and Baby Home completed.

General advice will continue to provide support for people seeking Irish citizenship, Irish Passports, and general welfare enquiries such as help with utility bills, Council Tax etc. The Charity's new rent free premises on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Eaton House, Eaton Road, Coventry has allowed us to host all our day to day services as well as exhibit our Oral History project 'Irish Heart, Coventry Home'. The premises create a great space for social befriending and events as well as new opportunities for volunteers and visitors. We were delighted to add the 'Irish Friendship Group' to our portfolio of services. The group now meets at the Charity every Friday 12pm-2pm.

There is now a café atmosphere along with the history exhibition. We are extremely grateful to 'Avire' the Charity that organised this move for us and to 'Friargate Projects' Ltd that have given us a new 3 year contract taking us up to May 2028.

We continue to strive to engage with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Irish signing them up as members and on our E-mailing list.

I would like to thank our main long-term funder the 'Emigrant Support Programme' for their commitment to the Irish community and the Charity, as well as some of our other long term and recent funders, The Ireland Fund of Great Britain, The National Lottery Community Fund and the Big Lottery for their fantastic support to the Irish community. Mostly I would like to thank all our members, clients, and volunteers for their support of the Charity.

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act submit their Report together with the reviewed Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 in preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

The Charity is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee and was set up on 1st October 2012 and commenced to trade on 1st January 2013. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Objectives

The Charity's objectives are:

- to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Coventry and surrounding areas with particular reference to those who are Irish or of Irish descent;
- to relieve sickness and old age, preserve and protect good health and advance education and training;

- to address issues of deprivation, social exclusion and isolation related to poor health and old age, preserve and protect good mental and physical health and spiritual well-being;
- to promote culturally appropriate housing, health and social welfare services and recreational and other leisure time occupations with the object of improving the quality for the said inhabitants.

#### Risks management

The Trustees conduct their own review of major risks to which the Charity is exposed, these procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the Charity and are as follows:

- an annual review of the risks which the Charity may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified;
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should any of the risks materialise.

#### Financial Review and Reserves Policy

The company's "results" and position at 31st December 2024 are set out in the accounts on pages 7 to 11.

#### Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Coventry Irish Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charitable Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

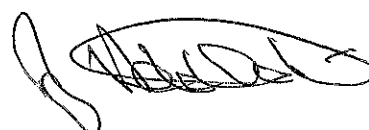
The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charitable Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant Audit information of which the Charitable Company's Auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant Audit information and to establish that the Auditor is aware of that information.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees by:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairperson



Print name: Chair- Rory Ryan  
 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Josephine Addleton Treasurer  
 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

## **2024 - Independent Accountant's Report on the Accounts**

I have both prepared the financial statements of the Coventry Irish Society (CIS). The circumstances whereby this has come about are discussed in Section 4 of this report. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

This report is made wholly to the CIS Trustees on the examination of the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and reporting accountant.**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibility Statement, the trustees (who, for the purposes of company law, are also the directors of the charitable company) are responsible for the records from which these accounts have been prepared. Normally, they would also be responsible for preparing the accounts, leaving the independent accountant merely the task of reviewing the accounts, but this year that was not possible and the independent accountant has prepared the accounts and take responsibility for them showing a true and fair view, subject to the note below. In doing so I have followed applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

### **Scope of the accounts**

The accounts concerned are in accordance with the underlying books and records of the organisation and have been verified with reference to external documents (e.g. bank statements) where this is feasible. Being acceptable to us, I have not changed any accounting policies from past years. have not received a trustees' report for the year and so have no comment to make.

### **Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern".**

The situation as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 was unchanged from earlier years so I am using the text from 2018 prepared by Mark Holmes and me. For clarity it is italicised. The figures we inherited from the years to December 2013 and 2014 were both subject to audit qualifications. In these circumstances we are unable to satisfy ourselves as to the appropriateness of the original figures and in particular the analysis of restricted and unrestricted funds. This impacts on later figures, especially the analysis of the capital funds on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 (the first period for which we were acting as independent accountants) as at the earlier year ends. On the other hand, readers may wish to note and take some comfort from the fact that funders have not responded to these qualified figures in such a way as to indicate that they were unhappy with the position revealed and ten years have since elapsed.

It is also necessary to state that in determining whether Coventry Irish Society ("CIS") is a going concern the accountant must be mindful that, like many charitable bodies, CIS's activities in both scale and direction are driven by the grants it is awarded. Changes in grants will impact CIS's future activities. This is not to say that CIS would not be able to continue but that its scope will always have to be adjusted to its resources.

Qualified Opinion on the financial statements.

In my opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern" paragraphs, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the charitable company's affairs at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK generally accepted accounting Practice (applicable to smaller entities), and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed: *SJLH Horsman*

Print name: SIMON HORSMAN

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
(Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account  
For Year Ended December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Donations and Fundraising	17,880		17,880	8,137
Membership & Sales	10,944		10,944	900
Emigrant Support Programme Less Clawback - Note 2 (2024 Clawback = Nil)		93,000	93,000	59,536
UK Lottery/Covid Grant		18,700	18,700	Nil
Other Grants	200	1,800	2,000	6,131
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>29,024</b>	<b>113,500</b>	<b>142,524</b>	<b>74,704</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Staff costs (including NI)	8,339	75,051	83,390	76,109
Survivors' Project		12,945	12,945	2,359
Gaelic Classes (net cost)	840		840	
Other Projects & Charitable Activities				6,532
Other expenses and support costs	4,695	4694	9,389	13,412
Office Rent/Premises	860	860	1,720	2,325
<b>Total resources expended,</b>	<b>14,734</b>	<b>93,550</b>	<b>108,284</b>	<b>100,737</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) Net outgoing resources</b>	<b>14,290</b>	<b>19,950</b>	<b>34,240</b>	<b>(26,033)</b>

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY - BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2024

	2024		2023	
FIXED ASSETS (Net Book Value) See Note 3 below		15		23
CURRENT ASSETS				
Bank and cash	79,359		47,615	
Total Current Assets				
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Deferred income (ESP Grant) see Note 2	(46,500)		46,500	
Sundry Creditors	(237)		(845)	
PAYE & NI	(1,237)		(2,020)	
Total Current Liabilities	(47,974)		(49,365)	
Net Current Assets Working Capital	31,385	31,385	(2,865)	(2,865)
TOTAL NET ASSETS/(DEFICIT)		31,398		(2,842)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		34,240		(26,033)
Fund Balances Brought Forward		(2,842)		23,191
Fund Balances Carried Forward		31,398		(2,842)
FUNDS - See Note 4				
Unrestricted funds		84,769		(67,661)
Restricted funds		(53,371)		64,819
TOTAL		31,398		(2,842)

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

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

On behalf of the board

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

The annexed notes form part of these financial statements.

Company Number: 08235510


Charity Number: 1150290

Print Name: Rory Ryan.....

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Print name: Josephine Addleton

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer

14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024

NOTE 1. Accounting policies

- (a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in July 2014 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).
- (b) The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis
- (c) Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in the full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. The value of the services provided by volunteers has been included.
- (d) Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are receivable.
- (e) Incoming resources from investments are included when receivable.
- (f) Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.
- (g) Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to the activity.
- (h) Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, which is estimated at five years for furniture, four years for office equipment and three years for computers.
- (i) Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- (j) Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.
- (k) Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.
- (l) Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

## Note 2 Emigrant Support Programme (ESP)

### *Background*

The Emigrant Support Programme funded by the Eireann Government makes up approximately 90% of the society's income so it is important that these monies are accounted for both correctly and transparently. The grants work on a year from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June so, in principle, given that the society works to the calendar year, half the grant will fall into the year it is received and half gets carried over to the following year. We say "in principle" because the timing of grants, especially if they are for specific purposes, can mean that simply halving the figure does not show a true and fair view.

*The Emigrant Support Programme received grant of €93,000 for the year from 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025. The funds were restricted for the following projects: Outreach Project £90,000, Lunch Club £2,000, St. Patrick's Day £1000. Six months of this grant income was utilised in the period to 31st December 2024. Six months grant income amounting to £46,670 has been deferred to the 2025 financial year and will be utilised by 30th June 2025.*

### **NOTE 3. Taxation**

No liability to UK corporation tax arises for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 nor for any previous periods.

NOTE 4. Funds	Opening Balances 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	Movement in Resources		Closing Balances 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024
		In	(Out)	
Unrestricted funds	(67 661)	29,024	(14,734)	(53,371)
Restricted funds	64 819	113,500	(93,550)	84,769
Total Funds	(2 842)	142,524	(108,284)	31,398

**COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1150290

---

# Accounts

---



# Coventry



Irish

Society



**Annual Report 2022**





# Rory Ryan Chair



I

Dár gcairde agus ár gcomhaltaí go léir  
To all our dear friends and members,

2022 - 2023 has been a bit of a hectic time for Coventry Irish Society. The last 18 months has really tested the charities agility and resilience in facing up to change, new challenges and priorities. What has become clear within these last months is the amount of talent and work which will be required in the coming years to set the Charity up for success in the future. I am happy with the challenges that we as a charity have overcome recently:

Office move

Office renovation and new set up

Recruitment

Funding Audit

Survivors project

These are just a few which have been guided by the board of Trustees and the Management Team.

Financially we are in a better place than we have been for a long time however we are still not able to meet the requirements of match funding , this is something we need our members and supporters to help us with. Fundraising will be a pivotal focus for the society over the next few years.

This year we will embark on understanding what our vision means to our members and the community we wish to support, we are passionately dedicated to ensuring our community and indeed the city we serve is fully aware of the services that we offer and our identity.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff for the hard work and dedication they have shown in the past 18 months but above all the passion and care they support our members on a daily basis.

As always we are grateful for all our supporters and donors, in particular the Emigrant Support Programme and all our associate members.

Sincerely

**Rory Ryan**

# Managers Report



The Charity continues to focus its attention on supporting the vulnerable members of the Irish community. Over 100 vulnerable Irish people have received significant support from the charity since our last AGM. Our day to day enquiries, Irish Passports, Utility bills, Welfare and Health enquiries has provided a service to more than 1200 people in the last 12 months. Irish Citizenship enquiries are still hugely popular and account for around 50% of all day to day enquiries.

Our Irish Survivors support service continues to help 50 Survivors across the West Midlands. On March 20th 2024, the new payments scheme for Mother and Baby Home Survivors will be opened. Our service will then be in much higher demand. We are delighted to have funding from the Irish government's 'Emigrant Support Programme' for a full time officer for this project. We are also delighted to announce that the 'Big Lottery' has kindly funded 4 Lunch Clubs per year for Irish Survivors for the next 2 years as well as some outreach work covering the Midlands.

We were delighted to relaunch our 'Betty Hunter Dementia Support Group' in tribute to the late Betty Hunter, who was so brilliant at providing Dementia support services in Coventry. Betty's company 'Care Associates' are helping us organise the group and have become a main supporter of the Charity, which is fantastic news!. Thank you to Gez and Helen Hunter for your support!

The Claddagh Group relocated to CIS, Eaton House in March 2023, The group is going strong! They are a fantastic group with around 50 members that meet every Tuesday 12pm-2pm, new members are always welcome.

In addition, the 'Irish Friendship Group' is another longstanding fantastic group that is now meeting at Eaton House 12-2pm every Friday and again are always welcoming to new members.

Thank you to both of these groups for their fantastic support of the Charity!.

Our Lunch Clubs are still well attended and we look forward to our St Patrick's Day week event at Christ the King on the 15th March.

Another great development this year was our partnership with 'Message to Margaret' and it is the Charity's privilege to rename our Irish language school after the late Margaret Keane. Thanks to the Message to Margaret team for your all your help this year! Caroline Brogan deserves a special mention for organising the 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement that the Charity was delighted to host.

Our new spacious premises has given the Charity a new dimension, including our social befriending projects and our Oral History exhibition 'Irish Heart, Coventry Home'. now on permanent display at the Charity, there are wonderful photographs and quotes that are part of the exhibition.

We now have a monthly E-Newsletter which is building subscribers and is a facility for the whole Irish community to communicate with Coventry Irish. We encourage new members through our campaign for direct debit contributors of £2 per-month. We are sincerely hoping that this increases the number of Second and Third Generation Irish people joining the charity.

Our 30th Anniversary Summer Ball at Christ the King was a great success! Thank you to all our friends and stakeholders that supported the event!

I would like to thank our main funder the 'Emigrant Support Programme' for all their fantastic support of the charity and the Irish community in Coventry and Warwickshire. Also, to our other funders the 'Big Lottery and the 'Ireland Fund of Great Britain' and the City Council. I would like to thank our Trustees that diligently support the charity as volunteers and our honorary president David Cairns, who continues to support the charity and raises awareness of the Irish community's needs. David was 90 years old in June 2023 and still campaigns on social justice matters!

Mostly to thank our members, volunteers, and clients for their contribution to the charity. Our whole purpose depends on you, and we are grateful for the opportunity to support you and work with you.

**Simon McCarthy—Have a Great St. Patrick's Day!**

# SIMON HAYES HEALTH OUTREACH WORKER

I am delighted to be part of the Irish Society team since November 2023. In my role as Health Outreach Worker, I support the Irish community with a wide range of enquires including a large number of Irish Passport and Irish Citizenship enquires (around 50% of the total of our day to day enquires).

So many our Second and Third Generation Irish are interested in getting their citizenship, that was given a great impetus by the Brexit vote in 2016.

It is always the Irish Society's intention to encourage people to get their Irish Citizenship to acknowledge and celebrate their heritage. However, since the implementation of 'Brexit' practicalities such as queuing and restrictions on length of stays in other European countries has given people the incentive to apply .

My main focus as the Health Outreach Worker is to ensure that the vulnerable Irish community are receiving the correct entitlements and that they are assisted to access health and welfare services that they may otherwise not receive without the support of a culturally sensitive service such as the Coventry Irish Society.

It has been great to be here to talk to and meet so many great people that are part of that wonderful Irish community that came to Coventry after the war to rebuild the city and contribute in so many ways.

It is a great pleasure to be here with the Irish Heart Coventry Home exhibition on permanent display. I had the pleasure of building the Irish bar in the original exhibition at the Herbert where 700 people came to the opening night!.

If anyone needs assistance with their passports or health and welfare I am here Monday to Friday 10am -1pm and 2pm-4pm for advice and information.

**Happy St. Patrick's Day!**  
**Simon Hayes**

## Gráinne Fellowes (Digital Officer)



Since March 2022, I have been working remotely with Coventry Irish as a Digital Officer. This role ensures the charity's voice is amplified across digital and social media channels including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Web and E-marketing. My background is in digital marketing for the cultural sector across the U.K, utilising the latest technologies to develop strong digital identities.

In the previous year, I have helped Coventry Irish to improve their digital presence across social and web channels, including auditing and re-developing key areas including mailing lists, a new website and networking across social channels to share news of upcoming events and charity updates within Coventry Irish and their wider network.

Our E-Newsletter is now published on a monthly basis, with some great volunteers helping create interesting content, Thank you in particular to Kate O'Mahony who has written some great articles in 2024.

Thank you also to our new specialist volunteer, Liam McGurk who is helping me analyse our website and social media traffic that we are using to inform the success of post types and successful engagement rates, which informs how social channels are used to disseminate information types. This includes employment and job offers from the charity and associated organisations, charity and affiliated group events and updates regarding Emigrant Support Programme and National Lottery Funding.

Looking forward to 2024, I will continue to work on helping to populate the exciting new website, aiming to increase membership and donation rates by building a strong digital network.

**Warmest Wishes Grainne Fellowes**



# Nikita Smith

## Irish Survivors Outreach Worker

Dear all ,



I would like to start by thanking everyone I have already had the pleasure of meeting for being so warm and welcoming.

From March 2022 until November 2023 I was delighted to be the Charity's Health Outreach Worker. In that role, I was responsible for welfare advice, such as; benefits, housing, energy and counselling referrals. I also assisted with all aspects of Irish citizenship, the majority of which being Passport Renewals but also includes first time applications and foreign birth registrations.

I am so thankful to be able to spend so much time amongst the Irish community here in Coventry and it is an honor to be able to support you.

I was delighted to be redeployed in the Irish Survivors role in November 2023. I am aware of the needs of Irish Survivors and I will do my very best to ensure they have an exemplary service and receive the correct support.

The forthcoming ' Mother and Baby Home' payments scheme that opens on the 20th March 2024 will dramatically increase the amount of Irish Survivors requesting support from the service..

An estimated 13000 Irish Survivors in the UK are eligible to apply, therefore, with only 3 specialist services nationally (Coventry, London and the Northwest) there could be a huge demand on the service.

I work closely with the Immigrant Counselling and Support Service that has specialist knowledge to provide counselling to Irish Survivors. The service is free to Irish Survivors and their children.

There is also a key role to play in applying for and requesting records for Irish Survivors. This can be very traumatic for Irish Survivors revisiting their past and they will need a considerable amount of support to do so.

I am so happy to be a part of CIS and look forward to continue supporting its members and helping to contribute towards bringing the Coventry Irish Community together.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

**Happy St. Patrick's Day!**

Warmest wishes

**Nikita Smith**



# Statement of Financial Activities

<b>OVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account For Years Ended December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022</b>				
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Donations and Fundraising	6,289		6,289	3,586
Membership & Sales	1,345		1,345	940
Emigrant Support Programme Less Clawback (see Note 2)		83,663	83,663	57,483
UK Lottery/Covid Grant		215	215	Nil
Other Grants	1,050		1,050	3,000
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>8,684</b>	<b>83,878</b>	<b>92,562</b>	<b>65,009</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Staff costs (including NI) Covid Costs		52,767	52,767	47,253
Survivors' Project		1,391	1,391	
Other Projects & Charitable Activities	5,856		5,856	
Other expenses and support costs	11,295		11,295	8,393
Office Rent		6,000	6,000	9,000
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>17,151</b>	<b>60,158</b>	<b>77,309</b>	<b>64,646</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) Net outgoing resources	<b>(8,467)</b>	<b>23,720</b>	<b>15,253</b>	<b>363</b>



# Balance Sheet 2022



<b>COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY - BALANCE SHEET</b>				
<b>AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2022</b>				
	2022		2021	
FIXED ASSETS (Net Book Value) See Note 3 below		35		52
CURRENT ASSETS				
Bank and cash	61,687		64,831	
Total Current Assets	61,687		64,831	
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Deferred income (ESP Grant) (see Note 2)	(36,438)		(56,225)	
Other Creditors	(150)			
Accruals (Credit Card)	(551)		(393)	
PAYE & NI	(592)		(327)	
Total Current Liabilities	(38,481)		(56,945)	
Net Current Assets (Working Capital)	23,156	23,156	7,886	7,886
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>23,191</b>		<b>7,938</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year</b>		<b>15,253</b>		<b>363</b>
Fund Balances Brought Forward		7,938		7,575
<b>Fund Balances Carried Forward</b>		<b>23,191</b>		<b>7,938</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds		(56,754)		(48,287)
Restricted funds		89,878		56,225
TOTAL		23,191		7,938

The Society decided in 2021 to change the way it treats restricted funds to something more transparent. Restricted Funds are to be those funds which have been allocated to specific purposes and which, remaining unspent, therefore represent liabilities to be satisfied in the future. At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 these funds amounted to £37,581 (see Note 2). The balance, a negative balance of £7,490 (2021 £48,287 has been taken to Unrestricted Funds).



# Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs



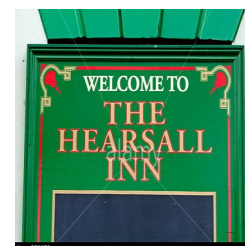
Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí  
Cork City Council



Noel Kelly  
Solicitor



IMAGINEER



The Claddagh  
Group

Irish Friendship  
Group

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

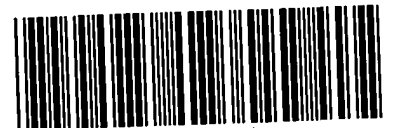
Charity No: 1150290

Company No: 08235510

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Chairperson's Report & Report of the Trustees	3
Report of the Independent Accountants	5
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	10

MONDAY



\*ADCQM4ZN\*

A22

30/09/2024

#265

COMPANIES HOUSE

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

COMPANY INFORMATION:

TRUSTEES:

Rory Ryan

Josephine Addleton

Elizabeth Flannelly

Kathleen McCarthy

Kay Forrest

Michael Fitzgerald

REGISTERED OFFICE:

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Eaton House

Eaton Road

Coventry

CV1 2FJ

REGISTERED NUMBER: 08235510 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1150290

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT: Simon Horsman

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT & REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

Dear Members

Coventry Irish Society is an organisation which works predominantly with older Irish people with a specific target to support the vulnerable Irish. Our overall aim is to alleviate poverty, improve health and address social isolation in our local Irish community.

CIS is made up of Trustees, Employees & Volunteers, but the beating heart of our Charity is our members and their passion to continuously keep alive our Irish heritage in the city that we call home.

The Charity will continue to prioritise the needs of the vulnerable Irish by targeting resources to ensure that our vulnerable community's health and welfare needs are being met. In addition to day to day advice and outreach services the Charity will conduct a half day per week Dementia Support Service to ensure this objective is being met. The Charity continues to prioritise Irish Survivors in the Midlands having secured funding for Irish Survivors specialist services in the previous 2 years. Currently, this project has 70 clients with 15 applications to the Mother and Baby Home in process.

General advice will continue to provide support for people seeking Irish citizenship, Irish Passports, and general welfare enquiries such as help with utility bills, Council Tax etc. The Charity's new rent free premises on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Eaton House, Eaton Road, Coventry has allowed us to host all our day to day services as well as exhibit our Oral History project 'Irish Heart, Coventry Home'. The premises create a great space for social befriending and events as well as new opportunities for volunteers and visitors. We were delighted to add the 'Irish Friendship Group' to our portfolio of services. The group now meets at the Charity every Friday 12pm-2pm.

There is now a café atmosphere along with the history exhibition. We are extremely grateful to 'Avire' the Charity that organised this move for us and to 'Friargate Projects' Ltd that have given us the 3 year contract. We continue to strive to engage with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Irish signing them up as members and on our E-mailing list.

I would like to thank our main long-term funder the 'Emigrant Support Programme' for their commitment to the Irish community and the Charity, as well as some of our other long term and recent funders, The Ireland Fund of Great Britain, The National Lottery Community Fund and the Big Lottery for their fantastic support to the Irish community. Mostly I would like to thank all our members, clients, and volunteers for their support of the Charity.

#### Report of the Trustees

The Trustees who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act submit their Report together with the reviewed Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 in preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

The Charity is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee and was set up on 1st October 2012 and commenced to trade on 1st January 2013. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

#### Objectives

The Charity's objectives are:

- to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Coventry and surrounding areas with particular reference to those who are Irish or of Irish descent;

- to relieve sickness and old age, preserve and protect good health and advance education and training;
- to address issues of deprivation, social exclusion and isolation related to poor health and old age, preserve and protect good mental and physical health and spiritual well-being;
- to promote culturally appropriate housing, health and social welfare services and recreational and other leisure time occupations with the object of improving the quality for the said inhabitants.

#### Risks management

The Trustees conduct their own review of major risks to which the Charity is exposed, these procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the Charity and are as follows:

- an annual review of the risks which the Charity may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified;
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should any of the risks materialise.

#### Financial Review and Reserves Policy

The company's "results" and position at 31st December 2023 are set out in the accounts on pages 7 to 11. There were negative unrestricted reserves at 31st December 2023, and the trustees are continuing to seek to address this and establish an appropriate reserves policy including a new 5 year plan.

#### Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Coventry Irish Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charitable Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

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


In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant Audit information of which the Charitable Company's Auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant Audit information and to establish that the Auditor is aware of that information.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees by:

Print name: Chair- Rory Ryan

Date 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairperson

## **2023 - Independent Accountant's Report on the Accounts**

I have both prepared the financial statements of the Coventry Irish Society (CIS). The circumstances whereby this has come about are discussed in Section 4 of this report. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

This report is made wholly to the CIS Trustees on the examination of the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and reporting accountant.**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibility Statement, the trustees (who, for the purposes of company law, are also the directors of the charitable company) are responsible for the records from which these accounts have been prepared. Normally, they would also be responsible for preparing the accounts, leaving the independent accountant merely the task of reviewing the accounts, but this year that was not possible and the independent accountant has prepared the accounts and take responsibility for them showing a true and fair view, subject to the note below. In doing so I have followed applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

### **Scope of the accounts**

The accounts concerned are in accordance with the underlying books and records of the organisation and have been verified with reference to external documents (e.g. bank statements) where this is feasible. Being acceptable to us, I have not changed any accounting policies from past years. have not received a trustees' report for the year and so have no comment to make.

### **Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern".**

The situation as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 was unchanged from earlier years so I am using the text from 2018 prepared by Mark Holmes and me. For clarity it is italicised. The figures we inherited from the years to December 2013 and 2014 were both subject to audit qualifications. In these circumstances we are unable to satisfy ourselves as to the appropriateness of the original figures and in particular the analysis of restricted and unrestricted funds. This impacts on later figures, especially the analysis of the capital funds on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 (the first period for which we were acting as independent accountants) as at the earlier year ends. On the other hand, readers may wish to note and take some comfort from the fact that funders have not responded to these qualified figures in such a way as to indicate that they were unhappy with the position revealed.

It is also necessary to state that in determining whether Coventry Irish Society ("CIS") is a going concern the accountant must be mindful that, like many charitable bodies, CIS's activities in both scale and direction are driven by the grants it is awarded. Changes in grants will impact CIS's future activities. This is not to say that CIS would not be able to continue but that its scope will always have to be adjusted to its resources.

Qualified Opinion on the financial statements.

In my opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern" paragraphs, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the charitable company's affairs at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK generally accepted accounting Practice (applicable to smaller entities), and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed: *SJLH Horsman*

Print name: SIMON HORSMAN

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
(Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account  
For Years Ended December 31<sup>st</sup> 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Donations and Fundraising	8,137		8137	6,289
Membership & Sales	900		900	1,345
Emigrant Support Programme Less Clawback (see Note 2)		59,536	59,536	83,663
UK Lottery/Covid Grant			Nil	215
Other Grants		6,131	6,131	1,050
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>9,037</b>	<b>65,667</b>	<b>74,704</b>	<b>92,562</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Staff costs (including NI) Covid Costs		76,109	76,109	52,767
Survivors' Project		2,359	2,359	1,391
Other Projects & Charitable Activities	6,532		6,532	5,856
Other expenses and support costs	13,412		13,412	11,295
Office Rent		2,325	2,325	6,000
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>19,944</b>	<b>80,793</b>	<b>100,737</b>	<b>77,309</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) Net outgoing resources	<b>(10,907)</b>	<b>(15,126)</b>	<b>(26,033)</b>	<b>15,253</b>

<b>COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY - BALANCE SHEET</b>				
<b>AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023</b>				
	2023		2022	
FIXED ASSETS (Net Book Value) See Note 3 below		23		35
CURRENT ASSETS				
Bank and cash	47,615		61,687	
Total Current Assets	47,615		61,687	
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Deferred income (ESP Grant) (see Note 2)	(46,500)		(36,438)	
Other Creditors			(150)	
Accruals (Credit Card)	(845)		(551)	
PAYE & NI	(2,020)		(592)	
Total Current Liabilities	(49,365)		(38,481)	
Net Current Assets (Working Capital)	(2,865)	(2,865)	23,156	23,156
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS (deficit)</b>		<b>(2,842)</b>		<b>23,191</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year</b>		<b>(26,033)</b>		<b>15,253</b>
Fund Balances Brought Forward		<b>23,191</b>		7,938
<b>Fund Balances Carried Forward</b>		<b>(2,842)</b>		<b>23,191</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds		(67,661)		(56,754)
Restricted funds		64,819		89,878
TOTAL		(2,842)		23,191

The Society decided in 2021 to change the way it treats Restricted Funds to something more transparent than previously. Restricted Funds are to be those funds which have been allocated to specific purposes and which, remaining unspent, therefore represent liabilities to be satisfied in the future.

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

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

On behalf of the board


The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

The annexed notes form part of these financial statements.

Company Number: 08235510

Charity Number: 1150290

Print Name: Rory Ryan.....

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson

Date: 27th September 2024.....

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

NOTE 1. Accounting policies

- (a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in July 2014 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).
- (b) The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis notwithstanding an overdrawn unrestricted funds position at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. A reduction in funding from the principal funder from mid-2014 reduced the Society's income significantly but it has been stable for several years now. The trustees have taken widespread and substantial remedial actions to rectify the situation, and are confident that a positive position has been restored. The 2023-24 grant awards from the principal funder, albeit at a lower level than pre-2014, have been confirmed at the date of approval of the financial statements. The trustees, being mindful of all relevant factors, consider the Going Concern basis to be appropriate.
- (c) Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in the full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. The value of the services provided by volunteers has been included.
- (d) Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are receivable.
- (e) Incoming resources from investments are included when receivable.
- (f) Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.
- (g) Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to the activity.
- (h) Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, which is estimated at five years for furniture, four years for office equipment and three years for computers.
- (i) Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- (j) Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.
- (k) Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.
- (l) Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

Note 2 Emigrant Support Programme (ESP)

The Emigrant Support Programme funded by the Eireann Government makes up approximately 90% of the society's income so it is important that these monies are accounted for both correctly and transparently. The grants work on a year from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June so, in principle, given that the society works to the calendar year, half the grant will fall into the year it is received and half gets carried over to the following year. We say "in principle" because the timing of grants, especially if they are for specific purposes, can mean that simply halving the figure does not show a true and fair view.

NOTE 3. Tangible fixed assets				
	Computer	Furniture	Equipment	Total
<b>COST</b>				
At 1st January 2023	5,490	5,196	1,978	12,664
Additions				0
Disposals				0
At 31st December 2023	5,490	5,196	1,978	12,664
<b>Less DEPRECIATION</b>				
At 31st December 2022	5,472	5,196	1,961	12,629
Charge for the Year	6		6	12
At 31st December 2023	5,478	5,196	1,967	12,641
<b>= NET BOOK VALUE</b>				
At 31st December 2023	12	0	11	23

**NOTE 3. Taxation**

No liability to UK corporation tax arises for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 nor for any previous periods.

NOTE 4. Funds				
	Opening Balance 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023	Movement in resources In          Out		Closing Balance 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023
Unrestricted funds	(56,754)	9,037	(19,944)	(67,661)
Restricted funds	79,945	65,667	(80,793)	64,819
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>23,191</b>	<b>74,704</b>	<b>(100,737)</b>	<b>(2,842)</b>

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

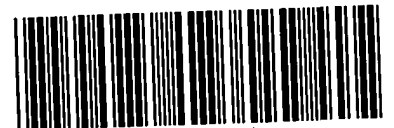
Charity No: 1150290

Company No: 08235510

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Chairperson's Report & Report of the Trustees	3
Report of the Independent Accountants	5
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	10

MONDAY



\*ADCQM4ZN\*

A22

30/09/2024

#265

COMPANIES HOUSE

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

COMPANY INFORMATION:

TRUSTEES:

Rory Ryan

Josephine Addleton

Elizabeth Flannelly

Kathleen McCarthy

Kay Forrest

Michael Fitzgerald

REGISTERED OFFICE:

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Eaton House

Eaton Road

Coventry

CV1 2FJ

REGISTERED NUMBER: 08235510 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1150290

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT: Simon Horsman

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT & REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

Dear Members

Coventry Irish Society is an organisation which works predominantly with older Irish people with a specific target to support the vulnerable Irish. Our overall aim is to alleviate poverty, improve health and address social isolation in our local Irish community.

CIS is made up of Trustees, Employees & Volunteers, but the beating heart of our Charity is our members and their passion to continuously keep alive our Irish heritage in the city that we call home.

The Charity will continue to prioritise the needs of the vulnerable Irish by targeting resources to ensure that our vulnerable community's health and welfare needs are being met. In addition to day to day advice and outreach services the Charity will conduct a half day per week Dementia Support Service to ensure this objective is being met. The Charity continues to prioritise Irish Survivors in the Midlands having secured funding for Irish Survivors specialist services in the previous 2 years. Currently, this project has 70 clients with 15 applications to the Mother and Baby Home in process.

General advice will continue to provide support for people seeking Irish citizenship, Irish Passports, and general welfare enquiries such as help with utility bills, Council Tax etc. The Charity's new rent free premises on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Eaton House, Eaton Road, Coventry has allowed us to host all our day to day services as well as exhibit our Oral History project 'Irish Heart, Coventry Home'. The premises create a great space for social befriending and events as well as new opportunities for volunteers and visitors. We were delighted to add the 'Irish Friendship Group' to our portfolio of services. The group now meets at the Charity every Friday 12pm-2pm.

There is now a café atmosphere along with the history exhibition. We are extremely grateful to 'Avire' the Charity that organised this move for us and to 'Friargate Projects' Ltd that have given us the 3 year contract. We continue to strive to engage with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Irish signing them up as members and on our E-mailing list.

I would like to thank our main long-term funder the 'Emigrant Support Programme' for their commitment to the Irish community and the Charity, as well as some of our other long term and recent funders, The Ireland Fund of Great Britain, The National Lottery Community Fund and the Big Lottery for their fantastic support to the Irish community. Mostly I would like to thank all our members, clients, and volunteers for their support of the Charity.

#### Report of the Trustees

The Trustees who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act submit their Report together with the reviewed Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 in preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

The Charity is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee and was set up on 1st October 2012 and commenced to trade on 1st January 2013. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

#### Objectives

The Charity's objectives are:

- to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Coventry and surrounding areas with particular reference to those who are Irish or of Irish descent;

- to relieve sickness and old age, preserve and protect good health and advance education and training;
- to address issues of deprivation, social exclusion and isolation related to poor health and old age, preserve and protect good mental and physical health and spiritual well-being;
- to promote culturally appropriate housing, health and social welfare services and recreational and other leisure time occupations with the object of improving the quality for the said inhabitants.

#### Risks management

The Trustees conduct their own review of major risks to which the Charity is exposed, these procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the Charity and are as follows:

- an annual review of the risks which the Charity may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified;
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should any of the risks materialise.

#### Financial Review and Reserves Policy

The company's "results" and position at 31st December 2023 are set out in the accounts on pages 7 to 11. There were negative unrestricted reserves at 31st December 2023, and the trustees are continuing to seek to address this and establish an appropriate reserves policy including a new 5 year plan.

#### Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Coventry Irish Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charitable Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

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


In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant Audit information of which the Charitable Company's Auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant Audit information and to establish that the Auditor is aware of that information.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees by:

Print name: Chair- Rory Ryan

Date 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairperson

## **2023 - Independent Accountant's Report on the Accounts**

I have both prepared the financial statements of the Coventry Irish Society (CIS). The circumstances whereby this has come about are discussed in Section 4 of this report. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

This report is made wholly to the CIS Trustees on the examination of the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and reporting accountant.**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibility Statement, the trustees (who, for the purposes of company law, are also the directors of the charitable company) are responsible for the records from which these accounts have been prepared. Normally, they would also be responsible for preparing the accounts, leaving the independent accountant merely the task of reviewing the accounts, but this year that was not possible and the independent accountant has prepared the accounts and take responsibility for them showing a true and fair view, subject to the note below. In doing so I have followed applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

### **Scope of the accounts**

The accounts concerned are in accordance with the underlying books and records of the organisation and have been verified with reference to external documents (e.g. bank statements) where this is feasible. Being acceptable to us, I have not changed any accounting policies from past years. have not received a trustees' report for the year and so have no comment to make.

### **Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern".**

The situation as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 was unchanged from earlier years so I am using the text from 2018 prepared by Mark Holmes and me. For clarity it is italicised. The figures we inherited from the years to December 2013 and 2014 were both subject to audit qualifications. In these circumstances we are unable to satisfy ourselves as to the appropriateness of the original figures and in particular the analysis of restricted and unrestricted funds. This impacts on later figures, especially the analysis of the capital funds on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 (the first period for which we were acting as independent accountants) as at the earlier year ends. On the other hand, readers may wish to note and take some comfort from the fact that funders have not responded to these qualified figures in such a way as to indicate that they were unhappy with the position revealed.

It is also necessary to state that in determining whether Coventry Irish Society ("CIS") is a going concern the accountant must be mindful that, like many charitable bodies, CIS's activities in both scale and direction are driven by the grants it is awarded. Changes in grants will impact CIS's future activities. This is not to say that CIS would not be able to continue but that its scope will always have to be adjusted to its resources.

Qualified Opinion on the financial statements.

In my opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern" paragraphs, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the charitable company's affairs at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK generally accepted accounting Practice (applicable to smaller entities), and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed: *SJLH Horsman*

Print name: SIMON HORSMAN

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
(Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account  
For Years Ended December 31<sup>st</sup> 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Donations and Fundraising	8,137		8137	6,289
Membership & Sales	900		900	1,345
Emigrant Support Programme Less Clawback (see Note 2)		59,536	59,536	83,663
UK Lottery/Covid Grant			Nil	215
Other Grants		6,131	6,131	1,050
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>9,037</b>	<b>65,667</b>	<b>74,704</b>	<b>92,562</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Staff costs (including NI) Covid Costs		76,109	76,109	52,767
Survivors' Project		2,359	2,359	1,391
Other Projects & Charitable Activities	6,532		6,532	5,856
Other expenses and support costs	13,412		13,412	11,295
Office Rent		2,325	2,325	6,000
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>19,944</b>	<b>80,793</b>	<b>100,737</b>	<b>77,309</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) Net outgoing resources	<b>(10,907)</b>	<b>(15,126)</b>	<b>(26,033)</b>	<b>15,253</b>

<b>COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY - BALANCE SHEET</b>				
<b>AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023</b>				
	2023		2022	
FIXED ASSETS (Net Book Value) See Note 3 below		23		35
CURRENT ASSETS				
Bank and cash	47,615		61,687	
Total Current Assets	47,615		61,687	
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Deferred income (ESP Grant) (see Note 2)	(46,500)		(36,438)	
Other Creditors			(150)	
Accruals (Credit Card)	(845)		(551)	
PAYE & NI	(2,020)		(592)	
Total Current Liabilities	(49,365)		(38,481)	
Net Current Assets (Working Capital)	(2,865)	(2,865)	23,156	23,156
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS (deficit)</b>		<b>(2,842)</b>		<b>23,191</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year</b>		<b>(26,033)</b>		<b>15,253</b>
Fund Balances Brought Forward		<b>23,191</b>		7,938
<b>Fund Balances Carried Forward</b>		<b>(2,842)</b>		<b>23,191</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds		(67,661)		(56,754)
Restricted funds		64,819		89,878
TOTAL		(2,842)		23,191

The Society decided in 2021 to change the way it treats Restricted Funds to something more transparent than previously. Restricted Funds are to be those funds which have been allocated to specific purposes and which, remaining unspent, therefore represent liabilities to be satisfied in the future.

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

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

On behalf of the board


The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

The annexed notes form part of these financial statements.

Company Number: 08235510

Charity Number: 1150290

Print Name: Rory Ryan.....

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Date: 27th September 2024.....

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023

NOTE 1. Accounting policies

- (a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in July 2014 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).
- (b) The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis notwithstanding an overdrawn unrestricted funds position at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. A reduction in funding from the principal funder from mid-2014 reduced the Society's income significantly but it has been stable for several years now. The trustees have taken widespread and substantial remedial actions to rectify the situation, and are confident that a positive position has been restored. The 2023-24 grant awards from the principal funder, albeit at a lower level than pre-2014, have been confirmed at the date of approval of the financial statements. The trustees, being mindful of all relevant factors, consider the Going Concern basis to be appropriate.
- (c) Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in the full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. The value of the services provided by volunteers has been included.
- (d) Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are receivable.
- (e) Incoming resources from investments are included when receivable.
- (f) Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.
- (g) Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to the activity.
- (h) Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, which is estimated at five years for furniture, four years for office equipment and three years for computers.
- (i) Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- (j) Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.
- (k) Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.
- (l) Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

Note 2 Emigrant Support Programme (ESP)

The Emigrant Support Programme funded by the Eireann Government makes up approximately 90% of the society's income so it is important that these monies are accounted for both correctly and transparently. The grants work on a year from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June so, in principle, given that the society works to the calendar year, half the grant will fall into the year it is received and half gets carried over to the following year. We say "in principle" because the timing of grants, especially if they are for specific purposes, can mean that simply halving the figure does not show a true and fair view.

NOTE 3. Tangible fixed assets				
	Computer	Furniture	Equipment	Total
<b>COST</b>				
At 1st January 2023	5,490	5,196	1,978	12,664
Additions				0
Disposals				0
At 31st December 2023	5,490	5,196	1,978	12,664
<b>Less DEPRECIATION</b>				
At 31st December 2022	5,472	5,196	1,961	12,629
Charge for the Year	6		6	12
At 31st December 2023	5,478	5,196	1,967	12,641
<b>= NET BOOK VALUE</b>				
At 31st December 2023	12	0	11	23

**NOTE 3. Taxation**

No liability to UK corporation tax arises for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 nor for any previous periods.

NOTE 4. Funds				
	Opening Balance 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023	Movement in resources In          Out		Closing Balance 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023
Unrestricted funds	(56,754)	9,037	(19,944)	(67,661)
Restricted funds	79,945	65,667	(80,793)	64,819
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>23,191</b>	<b>74,704</b>	<b>(100,737)</b>	<b>(2,842)</b>

**COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1150290

---

# Accounts

---



# Coventry

Irish

Society



**Annual Report 2022**





# Rory Ryan Chair



I

Dár gcairde agus ár gcomhaltaí go léir

To all our dear friends and members,

Coventry Irish Society has made significant progress in the previous year with our new building at Eaton House giving the charity a new lease of life. Our premises now offer us the opportunity to provide social events, welfare advice and host our Irish oral history exhibition 'Irish Heart, Coventry Home'

Our exhibition relaunch on June the 16th 2023 was a great success with 120 people in attendance with our main speaker Cork City Lord Mayor Dr Kieran McCarthy.

One thing is for sure we could not have achieved what we have this year without the support of our funders namely the Emigrant Support Programme-Ireland, the help of our wonderful staff, but above all the ongoing continued support from our loyal friends and members of which myself and the trustee board are forever truly grateful for.

Our Annual Summer Ball returned in September 2023 and was a fantastic success bringing all our main stakeholders together in what was the charity's 30th Anniversary celebration. Thank you to David Cairns our Honorary President for his dedication to the charity and for setting up the charity in 1993. He can be very proud of what the charity has achieved particularly for the vulnerable Irish including 500 Irish Survivors that we supported through Redress.

Our high profile panel of speakers for our 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement spoke about how the power sharing is a model for the world. This message is very important as we pray for peace in the Middle East and Ukraine. We also pay tribute to the family of the Late Margaret Keane for their courage to win the legal battle for Margaret's gravestone, Irish Language inscription (without and English Translation) and their battle with the NHS that neglected their duty to provide the best care for Margaret Keane, who could have lived on should she have had the appropriate treatment.

Whilst we do have a lot as individuals to concern ourselves with this year and next, let's not also forget to continue to support each other, continue advocating the services that we provide as a charity and above all celebrating our success and culture through our members.

Wishing you all the most Merry & Holy Christmas and a Prosperous & Happy New Year.

God bless, and my warmest wishes to you all.

**Rory Ryan - Chair**

# Managers Report



The Charity continues to focus its attention on supporting the vulnerable members of the Irish community. Over 100 vulnerable Irish people have received significant support from the charity since our last AGM. Our day to day enquiries, Irish Passports, Utility bills, Welfare and Health enquiries has provided a service to more than 1500 people in the last 12 months. Irish Citizenship enquiries are still hugely popular and around a 3<sup>rd</sup> of all day to day enquiries concern Irish Passport renewals, first time Irish Passport applications or Foreign Birth Registrations for 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Irish.

Our Irish Survivors support service continues to help 50 Survivors across the West Midlands. In February 2024 the new compensation scheme for Mother and Baby Home Survivors will be opened. Our service will then be in much higher demand. We are delighted to have funding from the Irish government's 'Emigrant Support Programme' to recruit a new full time officer for the project. We are delighted to have our new officer Nikita Smith taking up the post in November 2023.

Our Dementia support group was poignantly renamed after the late 'Betty Hunter' who contributed so much in the field of Dementia. A big thank you to 'Care Associates' who sponsor the group and also sponsored our Summer Ball in September.

The Claddagh Group is still going strong and were delighted to welcome them back to Eaton House in March 2023. They are a fantastic group with around 50 members that meet each Tuesday 12-2pm at Coventry Irish Society 2nd Floor Eaton House. The Irish Friendship Group is another longstanding fantastic group that is still going strong with 20 members and meets every Friday at Flannellys 12-2pm. I would like to thank both of these groups for their support of the charity.

We are very happy to report that our Lunch Clubs and social support groups are now fully attended again after a drop off in numbers during the Covid-19 pandemic. Our members are affected disproportionately from social isolation with many people having lost their long term spouses and the function of our social support networks are very important for this reason.

Our new spacious premises at 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Eaton House, Eaton Road Coventry have given us a massive injection of life and it has rejuvenated the project with so many social events taking place. The highlight this year was the 16th June Irish Heart Coventry Home reopening and the 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement Panel Discussion. Our Oral History exhibition 'Irish Heart, Coventry Home' is now permanently displayed at our offices.

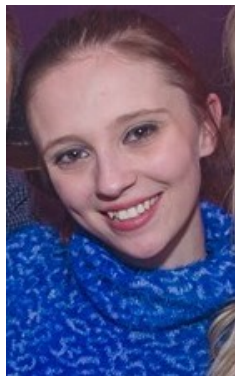
Our new website has also assisted us to get information to our new members with a bi-monthly E-Newsletter. We are sincerely hoping that this increases the number of Second and Third Generation Irish people joining the charity.

I would like to thank our main funder the 'Emigrant Support Programme' for all their fantastic support of the charity and the Irish community in Coventry and Warwickshire. Also, to our other funders the 'Big Lottery and the Ireland Fund of Great Britain and the City Council. I would like to thank our Trustees that diligently support the charity as volunteers and Our honorary president David Cairns, who continues to support the charity and raises awareness of the Irish community's needs, and he was 90 years old in June!

Mostly to thank our members, volunteers, and clients for their contribution to the charity. Our whole purpose depends on you, and we are grateful for the opportunity to support you and work with you.

**Simon McCarthy**

## Kiera Forrest P.A. to Manager



Hello All,

I am both the administrator and P.A to the manager at CIS. My role includes finance systems, service databases, marketing, and social media.

I help to maintain our website and social media pages as well as designing and preparing newsletters and event flyers. I also take part in the running of our events and regularly take photo's during them which I then upload to Facebook for anyone who wishes to download a copy for themselves.

I am also available to help people in renewing their Irish Passports along with applying for the first time and regularly give support and advice in applying for Foreign Birth Registrations for those of third-generation Irish.

I want to thank everyone for their patience whilst we moved and got set up in our new premises, I am so glad to report that the new CIS office is looking amazing and I encourage any who have yet to see it to pop in and have a look around at all of the wonderful things we have gathered over the years that are now on display including our Irish Heart, Coventry Home exhibition.

It's been fantastic being able to see you all again both for events and in the office and I truly appreciate everyone who comes along and makes our days so much brighter. You are always welcome to visit us for a cup of tea and a chat in the office and I hope to see you all even more in the years to come.

I wish you all the best, **Kiera Forrest**

## Gráinne Fellowes (Digital Officer)



Since March 2022, I have been working remotely with Coventry Irish as a Digital Officer. This role ensures the charity's voice is amplified across digital and social media channels including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Web and E-marketing. My background is in digital marketing for the cultural sector across the U.K, utilising the latest technologies to develop strong digital identities.

Over the past 10 months, I have helped Coventry Irish to improve their digital presence across social and web channels, including auditing and re-developing key areas including mailing lists, a new website and networking across social channels to share news of upcoming events and charity updates within Coventry Irish and their wider network.

Throughout March, April and May I worked to evaluate the key statistics from across social channels including follower counts, engagements and impressions, setting up an excel metric for all active accounts which continues to monitor monthly data. This data is used to inform the success of post types and successful engagement rates, which informs how social channels are used to disseminate information types. A similar excel metric is in place to begin monitoring website and E-marketing data as the charity begins to utilise the new website in 2023. In 2022, a large focus of Coventry Irish's digital offer was sharing short form updates through social channels as the website underwent re-development. This includes employment and job offers from the charity and associated organisations, charity and affiliated group events and updates regarding National Lottery Funding.

Looking forward to 2023, I will continue to work on helping to populate the exciting new website, aiming to increase membership and donation rates by building a strong digital network.

**Warmest Wishes Grainne Fellowes**



# Nikita Smith

## Health Workers Report



Dear all ,

I would like to start by thanking everyone I have already had the pleasure of meeting for being so warm and welcoming.

I recently joined CIS in the March of this year as the new health worker, a position which I cherish and hold very close to my heart due to my own Irish heritage being so important to me. I am so thankful to be able to spend so much time amongst the Irish community here in Coventry and it is an honor to be able to support you.

I am responsible for welfare advice, such as; benefits, housing, energy and counselling referrals. I also assist with all aspects of Irish citizenship, the majority of which being Passport Renewals but also includes first time applications and foreign birth registrations, both of which have been increasing in number over the last few months.

I understand that many people are struggling in these difficult times with the cost of living rising so rapidly, particularly the energy prices and so I have been kept busy these last few weeks offering people support for managing their bills, ensuring they are getting all benefits they are entitled to and helping in the process of applying for any they are not yet in receipt of. This includes filling out any necessary paperwork and arranging telephone assessments. I have also been helping anyone who is entitled to get their Irish Pensions and bus passes.

I would like for our members to be aware that I am available to help with most online services or requests you may have and that in the circumstance where it is not something I have come across before I will do my utmost to assign you to the right service or organization with continued support from myself should you need it.

My door is always open to those of you who need my assistance or would just like to pop in for a chat and a cup of tea.

I am so happy to be a part of CIS and look forward to continue supporting its members and helping to contribute towards bringing the Coventry Irish Community together.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Warmest wishes

**Nikita Smith**





# Statement of Financial Activities



<b>COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account For Years Ended December 31st</b>				
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Donations and Fundraising	6,289		6,289	3,586
Membership & Sales	1,345		1,345	940
Emigrant Support Programme Less Clawback (see Note 2)		83,663	83,663	57,483
UK Lottery/Covid Grant		215	215	Nil
Other Grants	1,050		1,050	3,000
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>8,684</b>	<b>83,878</b>	<b>92,562</b>	<b>65,009</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Staff costs (including NI) Covid Costs		52,767	52,767	47,253
Survivors' Project		1,391	1,391	
Other Projects & Charitable Activities	5,856		5,856	
Other expenses and support costs	11,295		11,295	8,393
Office Rent		6,000	6,000	9,000
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>17,151</b>	<b>60,158</b>	<b>77,309</b>	<b>64,646</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) Net outgoing resources	<b>(8,467)</b>	<b>23,720</b>	<b>15,253</b>	<b>363</b>



# Balance Sheet 2021



<b>COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY - BALANCE SHEET</b>				
<b>AS AT 31st DECEMBER</b>				
	2022		2021	
FIXED ASSETS (Net Book Value) See Note 3 below		35		52
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Bank and cash	61,687		64,831	
Total Current Assets	61,687		64,831	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Deferred income (ESP Grant) (see Note 2)	(36,438)		(56,225)	
Other Creditors	(150)			
Accruals (Credit Card)	(551)		(393)	
PAYE & NI	(592)		(327)	
Total Current Liabilities	(38,481)		(56,945)	
Net Current Assets (Working Capital)	23,156	23,156	7,886	7,886
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>23,191</b>		<b>7,938</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year</b>		<b>15,253</b>		<b>363</b>
Fund Balances Brought Forward		7,938		7,575
<b>Fund Balances Carried Forward</b>		<b>23,191</b>		<b>7,938</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds		(56,754)		(48,287)
Restricted funds		89,878		56,225
TOTAL		23,191		7,938

The Society decided in 2021 to change the way it treats restricted funds to something more transparent. Restricted Funds are to be those funds which have been allocated to specific purposes and which, remaining unspent, therefore represent liabilities to be satisfied in the future. At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 these funds amounted to £37,581 (see Note 2). The balance, a negative balance of £7,490 (2021 £48,287 has been taken to Unrestricted Funds).



# Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs



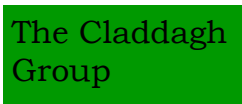
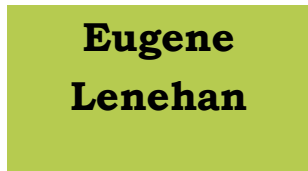
Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí  
Cork City Council



HM Government

In partnership with

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY  
COMMUNITY FUND



COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022

Charity No: 1150290

Company No: 08235510

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Chairperson's Report & Report of the Trustees	3
Report of the Independent Accountants	5
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9

**COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

**COMPANY INFORMATION:**

**TRUSTEES:**

Rory Ryan

Josephine Addleton

Elizabeth Flannelly

Kathleen McCarthy

Kay Forrest

Michael Fitzgerald

**REGISTERED OFFICE:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Eaton House

Eaton Road

Coventry

CV1 2FJ

**REGISTERED NUMBER: 08235510 (England and Wales)**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1150290**

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT: Simon Horsman**

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT & REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022

Dear Members

Coventry Irish Society is an organisation which works predominantly with older Irish people with a specific target to support the vulnerable Irish. Our overall aim is to alleviate poverty, improve health and address social isolation in our local Irish community.

CIS is made up of Trustees, Employees & Volunteers, but the beating heart of our charity is our members and their passion to continuously keep alive our Irish heritage in the city that we call home.

The Charity will continue to prioritise the needs of the vulnerable Irish by targeting resources to ensure that our vulnerable community's health and welfare needs are being met. In addition to day to day advice and outreach services the Charity will conduct a half day per week Dementia Support Service to ensure this objective is being met. The Charity will also prioritise Irish Survivors in the Midlands having secured funding for Irish Survivors specialist services. This project will target existing Survivors on our database and new Survivors claiming compensation from the forthcoming Mother and Baby Homes Payments Scheme, which is expected to open in the Autumn of 2023. General advice will continue to provide support for people seeking Irish citizenship, Irish Passports, and general welfare enquiries such as help with utility bills, Council Tax etc. The Charity's new rent free premises on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Eaton House, Eaton Road, Coventry has allowed us to host all our day to day services as well as exhibit our Oral History project 'Irish Heart, Coventry Home'. The premises create a great space for social befriending and events as well as new opportunities for volunteers and visitors. There is now a café atmosphere along with the history exhibition. We are extremely grateful to 'Avire' the Charity that organised this move for us and to 'Friargate Projects' Ltd that have given us the 3 year contract. The Charity recently developed a new 3 year fundraising plan that includes an online membership drive of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Irish and our new website that will be launched in November 2022. I would like to thank our main long-term funder the 'Emigrant Support Programme' for their commitment to the Irish community and the charity, as well as some of our other long term and recent funders, The Ireland Fund of Great Britain, The National Lottery Community Fund and the Big Lottery for their fantastic support to the Irish community. Mostly I would like to thank all our members, clients, and volunteers for their support of the Charity.

#### Report of the Trustees

The Trustees who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act submit their Report together with the reviewed Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2022. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 in preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

The Charity is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee and was set up on 1st October 2012 and commenced to trade on 1st January 2013. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

#### Objectives

The Charity's objectives are:

- to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Coventry and surrounding areas with particular reference to those who are Irish or of Irish descent;
- to relieve sickness and old age, preserve and protect good health and advance education and training;

- to address issues of deprivation, social exclusion and isolation related to poor health and old age, preserve and protect good mental and physical health and spiritual well-being;
- to promote culturally appropriate housing, health and social welfare services and recreational and other leisure time occupations with the object of improving the quality for the said inhabitants.

#### Risks management

The Trustees conduct their own review of major risks to which the Charity is exposed, these procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the Charity and are as follows:

- an annual review of the risks which the Charity may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified;
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should any of the risks materialise.

#### Financial Review and Reserves Policy

The company's "results" and position at 31st December 2022 are set out in the accounts on pages 7 to 11. There were negative unrestricted reserves at 31st December 2022, and the trustees are continuing to seek to address this and establish an appropriate reserves policy including a new 3 year plan.

#### Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Coventry Irish Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charitable Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant Audit information of which the Charitable Company's Auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant Audit information and to establish that the Auditor is aware of that information.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees by:

Print name: Chair- Rory Ryan

Date 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairperson

## **2020 - Independent Accountant's Report on the Accounts**

I have both prepared the financial statements of the Coventry Irish Society (CIS). The circumstances whereby this has come about are discussed in Section 4 of this report. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

This report is made wholly to the CIS Trustees on the examination of the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and reporting accountant.**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibility Statement, the trustees (who, for the purposes of company law, are also the directors of the charitable company) are responsible for the records from which these accounts have been prepared. Normally, they would also be responsible for preparing the accounts, leaving the independent accountant merely the task of reviewing the accounts, but this year that was not possible and the independent accountant has prepared the accounts and take responsibility for them showing a true and fair view, subject to the note below. In doing so I have followed applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

### **Scope of the accounts**

The accounts concerned are in accordance with the underlying books and records of the organisation and have been verified with reference to external documents (e.g. bank statements) where this is feasible. Being acceptable to us, I have not changed any accounting policies from past years. have not received a trustees' report for the year and so have no comment to make.

### **Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern".**

The situation as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 was unchanged from earlier years so I am using the text from 2018 prepared by Mark Holmes and me. For clarity it is italicised. The figures we inherited from the years to December 2013 and 2014 were both subject to audit qualifications. In these circumstances we are unable to satisfy ourselves as to the appropriateness of the original figures and in particular the analysis of restricted and unrestricted funds. This impacts on later figures, especially the analysis of the capital funds on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 (the first period for which we were acting as independent accountants) as at the earlier year ends. On the other hand, readers may wish to note and take some comfort from the fact that funders have not responded to these qualified figures in such a way as to indicate that they were unhappy with the position revealed.

It is also necessary to state that in determining whether Coventry Irish Society ("CIS") is a going concern the accountant must be mindful that, like many charitable bodies, CIS's activities in both scale and direction are driven by the grants it is awarded. Changes in grants will impact CIS's future activities. This is not to say that CIS would not be able to continue but that its scope will always have to be adjusted to its resources.

Qualified Opinion on the financial statements.

In my opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern" paragraphs, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the charitable company's affairs at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK generally accepted accounting Practice (applicable to smaller entities), and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed: *SJLH Horsman*

Print name: SIMON HORSMAN

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
(Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account  
For Years Ended December 31st

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Donations and Fundraising	6,289		6,289	3,586
Membership & Sales	1,345		1,345	940
Emigrant Support Programme Less Clawback (see Note 2)		83,663	83,663	57,483
UK Lottery/Covid Grant		215	215	Nil
Other Grants	1,050		1,050	3,000
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>8,684</b>	<b>83,878</b>	<b>92,562</b>	<b>65,009</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Staff costs (including NI) Covid Costs		52,767	52,767	47,253
Survivors' Project		1,391	1,391	
Other Projects & Charitable Activities	5,856		5,856	
Other expenses and support costs	11,295		11,295	8,393
Office Rent		6,000	6,000	9,000
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>17,151</b>	<b>60,158</b>	<b>77,309</b>	<b>64,646</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) Net outgoing resources	<b>(8,467)</b>	<b>23,720</b>	<b>15,253</b>	<b>363</b>

<b>COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY - BALANCE SHEET</b>				
<b>AS AT 31st DECEMBER</b>				
	2022		2021	
FIXED ASSETS (Net Book Value) See Note 3 below		35		52
CURRENT ASSETS				
Bank and cash	61,687		64,831	
Total Current Assets	61,687		64,831	
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Deferred income (ESP Grant) (see Note 2)	(36,438)		(56,225)	
Other Creditors	(150)			
Accruals (Credit Card)	(551)		(393)	
PAYE & NI	(592)		(327)	
Total Current Liabilities	(38,481)		(56,945)	
Net Current Assets (Working Capital)	23,156	23,156	7,886	7,886
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>23,191</b>		<b>7,938</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year</b>		<b>15,253</b>		<b>363</b>
Fund Balances Brought Forward		7,938		7,575
<b>Fund Balances Carried Forward</b>		<b>23,191</b>		<b>7,938</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds		(56,754)		(48,287)
Restricted funds		89,878		56,225
TOTAL		23,191		7,938

The Society decided in 2021 to change the way it treats restricted funds to something more transparent. Restricted Funds are to be those funds which have been allocated to specific purposes and which, remaining unspent, therefore represent liabilities to be satisfied in the future. At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 these funds amounted to £37,581 (see Note 2). The balance, a negative balance of £7,490 (2021 £48,287 has been taken to Unrestricted Funds.

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022

NOTE 1. Accounting policies

- (a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in July 2014 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).
- (b) *The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis notwithstanding an overdrawn unrestricted funds position at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. A reduction in funding from the principal funder from mid-2014 reduced the Society's income significantly but it has been stable for several years now. The trustees have taken widespread and substantial remedial to rectify the situation, and are confident that a positive position has been restored. The 2021-22 grant awards from the principal funder, albeit at a lower level than pre-2014, have been confirmed at the date of approval of the financial statements. The trustees, being mindful of all relevant factors, consider the Going Concern basis to be appropriate.*
- (c) Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in the full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. The value of the services provided by volunteers has been included.
- (d) Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are receivable.
- (e) Incoming resources from investments are included when receivable.
- (f) Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.
- (g) Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to the activity.
- (h) Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, which is estimated at five years for furniture, four years for office equipment and three years for computers.
- (i) Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- (j) Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.
- (k) Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.
- (l) Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

Note 2 Emigrant Support Programme (ESP)

### *Background*

The Emigrant Support Programme funded by the Eireann Government makes up approximately 90% of the society's income so it is important that these monies are accounted for both correctly and transparently. The grants work on a year from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June so, in principle, given that the society works to the calendar year, half the grant will fall into the year it is received and half gets carried over to the following year. We say "in principle" because the timing of grants, especially if they are for specific purposes, can mean that simply halving the figure does not show a true and fair view.

### *2021 and 2022*

In 2021 the Society received additional funding, somewhat late in the calendar year. With possibly excessive prudence (though this is always a matter of judgement), £56,225, was carried forward to 2022. £27,233 (half of the 2021 ESP grant and £30,250 (released from 2020) made up the 2021 income of £57,483 reported as Income for 2021. That £56,225, a larger sum than in recent years was released to Income for 2022 to combine with £27,438, 50% of the 2022 monies received of £54,875. The balance, the other 50% appears in the 2022 Balance Sheet as part of the Deferred Income.

£9,000 from a UK Lottery grant received late in 2022 carried forward to 2023 makes up the balance of the Deferred Income account.

***DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: EMIGRANT SUPPORT PROGRAMME*** *Department of Foreign Affairs: The Emigrant Support Programme received grant of €93,000 for the year from 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023. The funds were restricted for the following projects: Outreach Project £90,000, Lunch Club £2,000, St. Patrick's Day £1000. Six months grant income was utilised in the period to 31st December 2022. Six months grant income amounting to £59,300 has been deferred to the 2023 financial year and will be utilised by 30th June 2023.*

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

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

On behalf of the board

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022

The annexed notes form part of these financial statements.

Company Number: 08235510

Charity Number: 1150290

Print Name: Rory Ryan.....

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Date: 29th September 2023.....

NOTE 3. Tangible fixed assets				
	Computer	Furniture	Equipment	Total
COST				
At 1st January 2022	5,490	5,196	1,978	12,664
Additions				0
Disposals				0
At 31st December 2022	5,490	5,196	1,978	12,664
Less DEPRECIATION				
At 1st January 2022	5,463	5,196	1,953	12,612
Charge for the Year	9		8	17
At 31st December 2022	5,472	5,196	1,961	12,629
= NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31st December 2022	18	0	17	35

NOTE 3. Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arises for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 nor for any previous periods.

NOTE 4. Unrestricted funds				
	Opening Balance 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan'	Movement in resources In            Out		Closing Balance 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec;
Unrestricted funds	(48,287)	8,684	(17,151)	(56,754)
Restricted funds	56,225	83,878	(60,158)	79,945
<i>Total</i>	7,938	92,562	(77,309)	23,191

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022

Charity No: 1150290

Company No: 08235510

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Chairperson's Report & Report of the Trustees	3
Report of the Independent Accountants	5
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9

**COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

**COMPANY INFORMATION:**

**TRUSTEES:**

Rory Ryan

Josephine Addleton

Elizabeth Flannelly

Kathleen McCarthy

Kay Forrest

Michael Fitzgerald

**REGISTERED OFFICE:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Eaton House

Eaton Road

Coventry

CV1 2FJ

**REGISTERED NUMBER: 08235510 (England and Wales)**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1150290**

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT: Simon Horsman**

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT & REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022

Dear Members

Coventry Irish Society is an organisation which works predominantly with older Irish people with a specific target to support the vulnerable Irish. Our overall aim is to alleviate poverty, improve health and address social isolation in our local Irish community.

CIS is made up of Trustees, Employees & Volunteers, but the beating heart of our charity is our members and their passion to continuously keep alive our Irish heritage in the city that we call home.

The Charity will continue to prioritise the needs of the vulnerable Irish by targeting resources to ensure that our vulnerable community's health and welfare needs are being met. In addition to day to day advice and outreach services the Charity will conduct a half day per week Dementia Support Service to ensure this objective is being met. The Charity will also prioritise Irish Survivors in the Midlands having secured funding for Irish Survivors specialist services. This project will target existing Survivors on our database and new Survivors claiming compensation from the forthcoming Mother and Baby Homes Payments Scheme, which is expected to open in the Autumn of 2023. General advice will continue to provide support for people seeking Irish citizenship, Irish Passports, and general welfare enquiries such as help with utility bills, Council Tax etc. The Charity's new rent free premises on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Eaton House, Eaton Road, Coventry has allowed us to host all our day to day services as well as exhibit our Oral History project 'Irish Heart, Coventry Home'. The premises create a great space for social befriending and events as well as new opportunities for volunteers and visitors. There is now a café atmosphere along with the history exhibition. We are extremely grateful to 'Avire' the Charity that organised this move for us and to 'Friargate Projects' Ltd that have given us the 3 year contract. The Charity recently developed a new 3 year fundraising plan that includes an online membership drive of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Irish and our new website that will be launched in November 2022. I would like to thank our main long-term funder the 'Emigrant Support Programme' for their commitment to the Irish community and the charity, as well as some of our other long term and recent funders, The Ireland Fund of Great Britain, The National Lottery Community Fund and the Big Lottery for their fantastic support to the Irish community. Mostly I would like to thank all our members, clients, and volunteers for their support of the Charity.

#### Report of the Trustees

The Trustees who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act submit their Report together with the reviewed Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2022. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 in preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

The Charity is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee and was set up on 1st October 2012 and commenced to trade on 1st January 2013. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

#### Objectives

The Charity's objectives are:

- to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Coventry and surrounding areas with particular reference to those who are Irish or of Irish descent;
- to relieve sickness and old age, preserve and protect good health and advance education and training;

- to address issues of deprivation, social exclusion and isolation related to poor health and old age, preserve and protect good mental and physical health and spiritual well-being;
- to promote culturally appropriate housing, health and social welfare services and recreational and other leisure time occupations with the object of improving the quality for the said inhabitants.

#### Risks management

The Trustees conduct their own review of major risks to which the Charity is exposed, these procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the Charity and are as follows:

- an annual review of the risks which the Charity may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified;
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should any of the risks materialise.

#### Financial Review and Reserves Policy

The company's "results" and position at 31st December 2022 are set out in the accounts on pages 7 to 11. There were negative unrestricted reserves at 31st December 2022, and the trustees are continuing to seek to address this and establish an appropriate reserves policy including a new 3 year plan.

#### Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Coventry Irish Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charitable Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant Audit information of which the Charitable Company's Auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant Audit information and to establish that the Auditor is aware of that information.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees by:

Print name: Chair- Rory Ryan

Date 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairperson

## **2020 - Independent Accountant's Report on the Accounts**

I have both prepared the financial statements of the Coventry Irish Society (CIS). The circumstances whereby this has come about are discussed in Section 4 of this report. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

This report is made wholly to the CIS Trustees on the examination of the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and reporting accountant.**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibility Statement, the trustees (who, for the purposes of company law, are also the directors of the charitable company) are responsible for the records from which these accounts have been prepared. Normally, they would also be responsible for preparing the accounts, leaving the independent accountant merely the task of reviewing the accounts, but this year that was not possible and the independent accountant has prepared the accounts and take responsibility for them showing a true and fair view, subject to the note below. In doing so I have followed applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

### **Scope of the accounts**

The accounts concerned are in accordance with the underlying books and records of the organisation and have been verified with reference to external documents (e.g. bank statements) where this is feasible. Being acceptable to us, I have not changed any accounting policies from past years. have not received a trustees' report for the year and so have no comment to make.

### **Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern".**

The situation as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 was unchanged from earlier years so I am using the text from 2018 prepared by Mark Holmes and me. For clarity it is italicised. The figures we inherited from the years to December 2013 and 2014 were both subject to audit qualifications. In these circumstances we are unable to satisfy ourselves as to the appropriateness of the original figures and in particular the analysis of restricted and unrestricted funds. This impacts on later figures, especially the analysis of the capital funds on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 (the first period for which we were acting as independent accountants) as at the earlier year ends. On the other hand, readers may wish to note and take some comfort from the fact that funders have not responded to these qualified figures in such a way as to indicate that they were unhappy with the position revealed.

It is also necessary to state that in determining whether Coventry Irish Society ("CIS") is a going concern the accountant must be mindful that, like many charitable bodies, CIS's activities in both scale and direction are driven by the grants it is awarded. Changes in grants will impact CIS's future activities. This is not to say that CIS would not be able to continue but that its scope will always have to be adjusted to its resources.

Qualified Opinion on the financial statements.

In my opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern" paragraphs, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the charitable company's affairs at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK generally accepted accounting Practice (applicable to smaller entities), and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed: *SJLH Horsman*

Print name: SIMON HORSMAN

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
(Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account  
For Years Ended December 31st

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Donations and Fundraising	6,289		6,289	3,586
Membership & Sales	1,345		1,345	940
Emigrant Support Programme Less Clawback (see Note 2)		83,663	83,663	57,483
UK Lottery/Covid Grant		215	215	Nil
Other Grants	1,050		1,050	3,000
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>8,684</b>	<b>83,878</b>	<b>92,562</b>	<b>65,009</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Staff costs (including NI) Covid Costs		52,767	52,767	47,253
Survivors' Project		1,391	1,391	
Other Projects & Charitable Activities	5,856		5,856	
Other expenses and support costs	11,295		11,295	8,393
Office Rent		6,000	6,000	9,000
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>17,151</b>	<b>60,158</b>	<b>77,309</b>	<b>64,646</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) Net outgoing resources	<b>(8,467)</b>	<b>23,720</b>	<b>15,253</b>	<b>363</b>

<b>COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY - BALANCE SHEET</b>				
<b>AS AT 31st DECEMBER</b>				
	2022		2021	
FIXED ASSETS (Net Book Value) See Note 3 below		35		52
CURRENT ASSETS				
Bank and cash	61,687		64,831	
Total Current Assets	61,687		64,831	
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Deferred income (ESP Grant) (see Note 2)	(36,438)		(56,225)	
Other Creditors	(150)			
Accruals (Credit Card)	(551)		(393)	
PAYE & NI	(592)		(327)	
Total Current Liabilities	(38,481)		(56,945)	
Net Current Assets (Working Capital)	23,156	23,156	7,886	7,886
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>23,191</b>		<b>7,938</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year</b>		<b>15,253</b>		<b>363</b>
Fund Balances Brought Forward		7,938		7,575
<b>Fund Balances Carried Forward</b>		<b>23,191</b>		<b>7,938</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds		(56,754)		(48,287)
Restricted funds		89,878		56,225
TOTAL		23,191		7,938

The Society decided in 2021 to change the way it treats restricted funds to something more transparent. Restricted Funds are to be those funds which have been allocated to specific purposes and which, remaining unspent, therefore represent liabilities to be satisfied in the future. At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 these funds amounted to £37,581 (see Note 2). The balance, a negative balance of £7,490 (2021 £48,287 has been taken to Unrestricted Funds.

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022

NOTE 1. Accounting policies

- (a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in July 2014 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).
- (b) *The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis notwithstanding an overdrawn unrestricted funds position at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. A reduction in funding from the principal funder from mid-2014 reduced the Society's income significantly but it has been stable for several years now. The trustees have taken widespread and substantial remedial to rectify the situation, and are confident that a positive position has been restored. The 2021-22 grant awards from the principal funder, albeit at a lower level than pre-2014, have been confirmed at the date of approval of the financial statements. The trustees, being mindful of all relevant factors, consider the Going Concern basis to be appropriate.*
- (c) Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in the full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. The value of the services provided by volunteers has been included.
- (d) Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are receivable.
- (e) Incoming resources from investments are included when receivable.
- (f) Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.
- (g) Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to the activity.
- (h) Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, which is estimated at five years for furniture, four years for office equipment and three years for computers.
- (i) Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- (j) Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.
- (k) Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.
- (l) Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

Note 2 Emigrant Support Programme (ESP)

### *Background*

The Emigrant Support Programme funded by the Eireann Government makes up approximately 90% of the society's income so it is important that these monies are accounted for both correctly and transparently. The grants work on a year from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June so, in principle, given that the society works to the calendar year, half the grant will fall into the year it is received and half gets carried over to the following year. We say "in principle" because the timing of grants, especially if they are for specific purposes, can mean that simply halving the figure does not show a true and fair view.

### *2021 and 2022*

In 2021 the Society received additional funding, somewhat late in the calendar year. With possibly excessive prudence (though this is always a matter of judgement), £56,225, was carried forward to 2022. £27,233 (half of the 2021 ESP grant and £30,250 (released from 2020) made up the 2021 income of £57,483 reported as Income for 2021. That £56,225, a larger sum than in recent years was released to Income for 2022 to combine with £27,438, 50% of the 2022 monies received of £54,875. The balance, the other 50% appears in the 2022 Balance Sheet as part of the Deferred Income.

£9,000 from a UK Lottery grant received late in 2022 carried forward to 2023 makes up the balance of the Deferred Income account.

***DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: EMIGRANT SUPPORT PROGRAMME*** *Department of Foreign Affairs: The Emigrant Support Programme received grant of €93,000 for the year from 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023. The funds were restricted for the following projects: Outreach Project £90,000, Lunch Club £2,000, St. Patrick's Day £1000. Six months grant income was utilised in the period to 31st December 2022. Six months grant income amounting to £59,300 has been deferred to the 2023 financial year and will be utilised by 30th June 2023.*

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

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

On behalf of the board

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022

The annexed notes form part of these financial statements.

Company Number: 08235510

Charity Number: 1150290

Print Name: Rory Ryan.....



---

Chairperson

Date: 29th September 2023.....

NOTE 3. Tangible fixed assets				
	Computer	Furniture	Equipment	Total
COST				
At 1st January 2022	5,490	5,196	1,978	12,664
Additions				0
Disposals				0
At 31st December 2022	5,490	5,196	1,978	12,664
Less DEPRECIATION				
At 1st January 2022	5,463	5,196	1,953	12,612
Charge for the Year	9		8	17
At 31st December 2022	5,472	5,196	1,961	12,629
= NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31st December 2022	18	0	17	35

NOTE 3. Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arises for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 nor for any previous periods.

NOTE 4. Unrestricted funds				
	Opening Balance 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan'	Movement in resources In            Out		Closing Balance 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec;
Unrestricted funds	(48,287)	8,684	(17,151)	(56,754)
Restricted funds	56,225	83,878	(60,158)	79,945
<i>Total</i>	7,938	92,562	(77,309)	23,191

**COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1150290

---

# Accounts

---



# Coventry



Irish

Society



**Annual Report 2020**





## Rory Ryan Chair



### Dear Members and Friends of CIS,



It has certainly been a very difficult couple of years between 2020 & 2021 and I am so happy to have seen most of you at our first lunch club since lockdown ended. At last we can start planning what the future of CIS is going to look like post lockdown and in the coming years and I would love to hear from you all what you think that should be. In my view it would be a mistake to look to the future without remembering the past, especially those dear members and friends who are no longer with us, please join me in remembering those in your thoughts and prayers.

CIS is made up of Trustees, Employees & Volunteers, but the beating heart of our charity is our members and passion to continuously keep alive our Irish heritage in the city that we call home. Our commitment to our members is still as strong as ever and although we may have changed how we have done a few things, the foundation of our ethos remains unchanged.

At this AGM I would like to recognise the staff of CIS;

**Daniel Morrisson** who joined CIS back in 2020 was thrown in the deep end and has proven his ability through his unwavering passion and commitment to our members & charity, he has been vital in keeping our charity running over the past few years!

**Kiera Forrest** who has been with us for over 4 years now has supported Simon and the board of trustees in maintaining services that we offer to our members. Kiera is a fantastic support to Simon as his assistant.

**Simon McCarthy** who has been with us since before time began has guided the ship through its stormiest waters including the recent COVID years, with unwavering commitment and sheer love of his job, culture and for our members and the charity itself. We would be lost without you!

From myself and the trustee board, thank you to you all for your hard work and effort during these recent years!

It's so important that I echo the thanks of our trustees to the Irish government for continuing its support of this charity when we all know the economic pressures that all countries now face after a very turbulent couple of years. I would also like to thank some of our other long term and recent funders, The Ireland Fund of Great Britain, The National Lottery Community Fund, The Heart of England and the Big Lottery for their fantastic support to the Irish community.

I would like to finish off my address to you all by asking you all to remember Kay Forrest and her family in your thoughts today and pray for the soul of her daughter Paula who recently passed away tragically, may she rest in peace.

Thank you for continuing your membership with CIS and continuing your support of our family charity, feel free to find me or any of the trustees for a chat today to share your thoughts and ideas.

Dia dhaoibh go léir.

Le meas,

**Rory Ryan - Chair Coventry Irish Society**

# Managers Report



## Dear Members and Friends of the Charity

Coventry Irish Society has continued to do our best to provide services to the Irish community since our last AGM that was held in May 2019. In March 2020 when the Lockdown was on we struck up a partnership with St Finbarrs GAA Club to deliver care packages to the vulnerable Irish community. Overall, the project was delivering care packages to 110 families/vulnerable people per-week, and this went on from March 2020 until December 2020. We also managed to deliver Hampers to 70 of our members with specific grants from the Irish Emigrant Support

Programme and the Ireland Fund of Great Britain. We were extremely grateful to the Irish Emigrant Support Programme, The National Lottery Community Fund and the Heart of England Foundation for supporting the care packages project with a total of £20,400.

The Charity reopened in April 2021 full time, and we have been providing face to face services and home visits since then. The Service is slowly building up again and there was a huge backlog of people that wanted to apply for their Irish Passports that we have now resolved.

Our Lunch Clubs began again in August 2021 and our post lockdown celebration party is on the 24<sup>th</sup> September at Flannellys and is free to members courtesy of one of the Charity's great supporters the 'Ireland Fund of Great Britain'.

From August 2021 we are looking to have bi-monthly lunch clubs either at Flannellys or Christ the King. Our Dementia Group that was very successful before Lockdown is aimed to be reinstated in October 2021, this is at Christ the King Parish Centre on a Wednesday between 12.30pm and 3pm.

Our St Patrick's Festival was sadly cancelled for the second year in a row however due to our partnership with Imagineers and Media Mania we were able to support a fantastic online event 'Culture on the Move' that was viewed by more than 6,000 people. We continue to work with Imagineers for our Youth Steering Group project, funded by the Emigrant Support Programme and the Irish Youth Foundation, with the aim of the group working on the St. Patrick's Day Festival events next year.

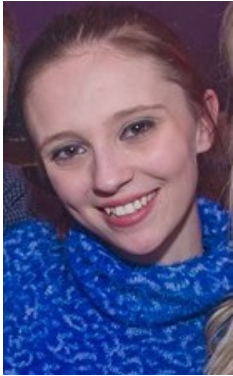
We were recently delighted to receive news of our funding from the Emigrant Support Programme for another year up until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We are extremely grateful to the Emigrant Support Programme for their support and commitment to the local Irish community and the needs of the vulnerable Irish in Coventry and Warwickshire. This year our grant includes an additional post to support Irish Survivors and we are in the process of recruiting a first-class officer to meet the needs of this vulnerable group.

I would like to thank my staff for their dedicated work and commitment to the Irish community and also our Trustees for their support and fantastic commitment to the Charity. Also, as ever I would like to thank our Honorary President, David Cairns for his support and contribution to the Charity. The last year was particularly sad for David as he lost his soul mate and life partner Nancy as well his brother Austin whom he was very close to. Coventry Irish Society's wonderful tribute to Nancy demonstrated what a remarkable woman she was.

Lastly, I would like to thank all our members, supporters and volunteers for their wonderful support. I hope the next year will be a much better one for everyone and particularly there will be no more lockdowns and the social isolation this causes. I look forward to seeing you all at our events.

**Simon McCarthy**

## Kiera Forrest P.A. to Manager



Hello All,

I am both the administrator and P.A. to the manager at CIS. My role includes finance systems, service databases, marketing, and social media.

I maintain our website and social media pages as well as designing and preparing newsletters and event flyers. I also take part in the running of our events and regularly take photo's during them which I then upload to Facebook for anyone who wishes to download a copy for themselves.

I also help people in renewing their Irish Passports along with applying for their first time and regularly give support and advice in applying for Foreign Birth Registrations for those of third-generation Irish.

The past year and a half has been a really trying time for everyone, both personally and for the charity, but I spent much of my time during the lockdown calling many of our members and speaking to each of you helped me as much as it did you, it was a time where we all banded together and looked out for one another on a more personal level and I truly enjoyed getting to know all those I spoke to so much better than I did before.

I am so glad we have been able to restart our events and see all of you again in person and I remain happy to help any of you who needs it.

I wish you all the best,

**Kiera Forrest**

### **Stakeholder Survey**

Coventry Irish Society is conducting a survey of our members and clients to find out your views and understand how we can meet the needs of our community better.

The survey is anonymous and no names are required, only your views.

If you would like to help the Charity with this please complete the questionnaire that is part of your AGM pack today.

**Thank You from the CIS Team**



# Daniel Morrison

## Health Workers Report



Since I joined in 2020, my role in Coventry Irish Society has mainly been to continue to help and support members of the Irish community in Coventry (but often further afield) to the best of our abilities, this covers a broad range of services, that are continually growing and adapting to our communities needs.

More recently In 2021, with COVID restrictions easing and people being able to travel, this has meant keeping regularly up to date with government advice and restrictions. In doing so we have been able us to pass on the most current and reliable information to our members. With people finally being able to travel back to Ireland to see family and friends that they have missed for the past 18 months, I have been kept busy helping members organise their trips, filling out passenger locator forms and organising COVID vaccination certificates to enable them to travel.

Irish Passport applications and renewals continue to prove a popular service that we offer, we have noticed an increase in people struggling with their applications, and so using our services for support, mainly due to the Irish DFA dealing with huge backlog of applications whilst their offices were closed for the majority of lockdown (with some services still unavailable).

The Society continues to enable many member of the Irish community in Coventry (including some of the most vulnerable) to access services they may struggle to without our help. I have tried to continue the previous staff members (Ann, Win and many before) amazing efforts to offer support and advice on health and welfare, ranging from advice on claiming and receiving benefits, to helping members find the best value car insurance! Many of our members are either unable to access the internet or not comfortable using a computer independently, so we continue to support them in this way to allow them to access the services they need/are entitled too.

I frequently liaise within a network of charities and organisations across Coventry to be able to point our members in the right direction if we are not able to help them in house. Through doing this we have built a strong, working relationship, with a good few other organisations, and so are more equipped to deal with a more specialist issues. This year the society has saved our members thousands of pounds through working with organisations like the NEA to get our members on the most efficient tariffs. Through working with them we have also been able to new boilers for many of our members.

Look forward to seeing you at our events

**Daniel Morrison**





# Statement of Financial Activities



Coventry Irish Society					
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION					
(Balance Sheet)					
As At 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020					
		2020		2019	
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	3		78		117
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Bank and Cash			38,876		32,496
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Deferred Income (ESP Grant)		30,250		30,250	
Other Creditors		578			
Accruals		138		231	
PAYE & NI		413		305	
<b>Total</b>		<b>31,379</b>	<b>31,379</b>	<b>30,786</b>	<b>30,786</b>
<b>Equals Net Current Assets/ Working Capital</b>			<b>7,497</b>		<b>1,710</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>			<b>7,575</b>		<b>1,827</b>
Surplus/(Deficit)			5,748		(8,147)
Fund Balances Brought Forward			1,827		9,974
Fund Balances Carried Forward			7,575		1,827
Being					
Restricted Funds					69,888
Unrestricted Funds					(68,061)



# Balance Sheet 2020



Coventry Irish Society				
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES				
(Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)				
For the Year Ended 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020				
	Unrestricted £ Funds	Restricted £ Funds	Total £ 2020	Total £ 2019
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
Grants and Donations				
Irish Dept of Foreign Affairs				
(Emigrant Support Programme)		68,234	68,234	60,500
(Oral History Project)			0	1,732
UK Lottery/Covid	10,000		10,000	
Other Grants		12,540	12,540	8,945
Other Income	5,028		5,028	9,271
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,028</b>	<b>80,774</b>	<b>95,802</b>	<b>79,448</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Staff Costs			53,409	50,163
Oral History Project (direct costs)			0	2,392
Survivors' Project			98	9,009
Other Projects			0	4,523
Office Rent			6,250	4,970
Other Expenses and Support Costs			9,140	16,538
Covid Costs			21,156	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>90,053</b>	<b>87,595</b>
Surplus/(Deficit)			5,748	(8,147)
Fund Balances Brought Forward	(68,061)	69,888		9,974
Fund Balances Carried Forward				1,827

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

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



# Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs



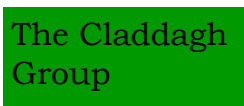
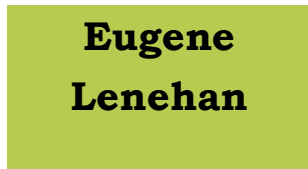
Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí  
Cork City Council



HM Government

In partnership with

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY  
COMMUNITY FUND



COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER  
2021

Charity No: 1150290

Company No: 08235510

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Chairperson's Report & Report of the Trustees	3
Report of the Independent Accountants	5
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 202

1

COMPANY INFORMATION:

TRUSTEES:

Rory Ryan

Josephine Addleton

Elizabeth Flannelly

Kathleen McCarthy

Kay Forrest

REGISTERED OFFICE:

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Eaton House

Eaton Road

Coventry

CV1 2FJ

REGISTERED NUMBER: 08235510 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1150290



INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT: Simon Horsman

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT & REPORT OF THE  
TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021

Dear Members

Coventry Irish Society is an organisation which works predominantly with older Irish people with a specific target to support the vulnerable Irish. Our overall aim is to alleviate poverty, improve health and address social isolation in our local Irish community

CIS is made up of Trustees, Employees & Volunteers, but the beating heart of our charity is our members and their passion to continuously keep alive our Irish heritage in the city that we call home. Our commitment to our members is still as strong as ever and although we may have changed how we have done a few things, the foundation of our ethos remains unchanged.

The Charity will continue to prioritise the needs of the vulnerable Irish by targeting resources to ensure that our vulnerable community's health and welfare needs are being met. In addition to day to day advice and outreach services the Charity will conduct a half day per week Dementia Support Service to ensure this objective is being met. The Charity will also prioritise Irish Survivors in the Midlands having recently secured funding for Irish Survivors specialist services. This project will target existing Survivors on our database and new Survivors claiming compensation from the forthcoming Mother and Baby Homes Redress Scheme. General advice will continue to provide support for people seeking Irish citizenship, Irish Passports, and general welfare enquiries such as help with utility bills, Council Tax etc. The Charity recently acquired rent free premises on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Eaton House, Eaton Road, Coventry. This very spacious office allows us to host all

our day to day services as well as exhibit our Oral History project 'Irish Heart, Coventry Home'. The premises create a great space for social befriending and events as well as new opportunities for volunteers and visitors. There will be a café atmosphere along with the history exhibition. We are extremely grateful to 'Avire' the Charity that organised this move for us and to 'Friargate Projects' Ltd that have given us the 3 year contract. The Charity recently developed a new 3 year fundraising plan that includes an online membership drive of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Irish and our new website that will be launched in November 2022. I would like to thank our main long-term funder the 'Emigrant Support Programme' for their commitment to the Irish community and the charity, as well as some of our other long term and recent funders, The Ireland Fund of Great Britain, The National Lottery Community Fund, The Heart of England the Big Lottery and the Irish Youth Foundation for their fantastic support to the Irish community. Mostly I would like to thank all our members, clients and volunteers for their support of the Charity.

### Report of the Trustees

The Trustees who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act submit their Report together with the reviewed Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2020. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 in preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

The Charity is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee and was set up on 1st October 2012 and commenced to trade on 1st January 2013. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

### Objectives

The Charity's objectives are:

- to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Coventry and surrounding areas with particular reference to those who are Irish or of Irish descent;
- to relieve sickness and old age, preserve and protect good health and advance education and training;

- to address issues of deprivation, social exclusion and isolation related to poor health and old age, preserve and protect good mental and physical health and spiritual well-being;
- to promote culturally appropriate housing, health and social welfare services and recreational and other leisure time occupations with the object of improving the quality for the said inhabitants.

#### Risks management

The Trustees conduct their own review of major risks to which the Charity is exposed, these procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the Charity and are as follows:

- an annual review of the risks which the Charity may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified;
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should any of the risks materialise.

#### Financial Review and Reserves Policy

The company's "results" and position at 31st December 2020 are set out in the accounts on pages 7 to 10. There were negative unrestricted reserves at 31st December 2020, and the trustees are continuing to seek to address this and establish an appropriate reserves policy including a new 3 year plan.

#### Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Coventry Irish Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charitable Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material . departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation. The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charitable Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charitable Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In so far as the Trustees are aware:
- there is no relevant Audit information of which the Charitable Company's Auditor is unaware; and • the Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant Audit information and to establish that the Auditor is aware of that information.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees by:




---

Chairperson

Print name: Rory Ryan

Date 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

### **2020 - Independent Accountant's Report on the Accounts**

I have both prepared the financial statements of the Coventry Irish Society (CIS). The circumstances whereby this has come about are discussed in Section 4 of this report. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable

law and Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

This report is made wholly to the CIS Trustees on the examination of the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and reporting accountant.

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibility Statement, the trustees (who, for the purposes of company law, are also the directors of the charitable company) are responsible for the records from which these accounts have been prepared. Normally, they would also be responsible for preparing the accounts, leaving the independent accountant merely the task of reviewing the accounts, but this year that was not possible and the independent accountant has prepared the accounts and take responsibility for them showing a true and fair view, subject to the note below. In doing so I have followed applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Scope of the accounts

The accounts concerned are in accordance with the underlying books and records of the organisation and have been verified with reference to external documents (e.g. bank statements) where this is feasible. Being acceptable to us, I have not changed any accounting policies from past years. have not received a trustees' report for the year and so have no comment to make.

Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern".

The situation as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 was unchanged from earlier years so I am using the text from 2018 prepared by Mark Holmes and me. For clarity it is italicised. The figures we inherited from the years to December 2013 and 2014 were both subject to audit qualifications. In these circumstances we are unable to satisfy ourselves as to the appropriateness of the original figures and in particular the analysis of restricted and unrestricted funds. This

impacts on later figures, especially the analysis of the capital funds on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 (the first period for which we were acting as independent accountants) as at the earlier year ends. On the other hand, readers may wish to note and take some comfort from the fact that funders have not responded to these qualified figures in such a way as to indicate that they were unhappy with the position revealed.

It is also necessary to state that in determining whether Coventry Irish Society ("CIS") is a going concern the accountant must be mindful that, like many charitable bodies, CIS's activities in both scale and direction are driven by the grants it is awarded. Changes in grants will impact CIS's future activities. This is not to say that CIS would not be able to continue but that its scope will always have to be adjusted to its resources.

#### Qualified Opinion on the financial statements.

In my opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern" paragraphs, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the charitable company's affairs at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK generally accepted accounting Practice (applicable to smaller entities), and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed: SJLH Horsman

Print name: SIMON HORSMAN

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022



Coventry Irish Society  
 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
 (Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

	Unrestrict ed funds	Restrict ed funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
Grants & Donations				
Dept. of Foreign Affairs:				
Emigrant Support Programme			57,483	68,234
Less: Clawback				4
UK Lottery/Covid Grant			Nil	10,00
Other Grants			3,000	0
Other Income (including fundraising)			4,526	12,540
				5,028
<b>Total incoming resources</b>			<b>65,009</b>	<b>95,802</b>
 <b>Resources expended</b>				
Staff costs (including NI)			47,253	53,409
Covid Costs				21,156
Survivors' Project				98
Other expenses and support costs			8,393	9,140
Office Rent			9,000	6,250
<b>Total resources expended</b>			<b>64,646</b>	<b>90,053</b>

Surplus/(Deficit) Net outgoing resources	(8,147)	363	5,748
--	---------	-----	-------

Coventry Irish Society  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2021

	Note	£	2021		2020
Fixed Assets	3		52		78
Current assets					
Bank and cash		64,831			38,876
Total Current Assets		64,831	64,831	38,876	38,876
Current Liabilities					
Deferred income (ESP Grant)		(56,225)		(30,250)	
Other Creditors				(578)	
Accruals (Credit Card)		(393)		(1)	
PAYE & NI		(327)		38	
				(4)	
				13	
				)	
Total Current Liabilities		(56,945)	(56,945)	(31,379)	(31,379)
Net Current Assets (Working Capital)			7,886	7,497	7,497
Total Net Assets			7,938	7,575	
Surplus/Deficit			363		5,748

Fund Balances brought forward	7,575	1,827
Fund Balances Carried forward	<u>7,938</u>	<u>7,575</u>

*DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE: EMIGRANT SUPPORT PROGRAMME Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: The Emigrant Support Programme received grant of €65,500 for the year from 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2021. The funds were restricted for the following projects: Outreach Project £57,500, Lunch Club £2,000, St. Patrick's Day £1000 Youth Steering Project £5,000. Six months grant income was utilised in the period to 31st December 2020. Six months grant income amounting to £35,750 has been deferred to the 2021 financial year and will be utilised by 30th June 2021*

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

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

On behalf of the board

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on  
29<sup>th</sup> September 2022

The annexed notes form part of these financial statements.

Charity number 08235510  
Company number 115029

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Print Name: Rory Ryan.....

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022.....

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021

1. Accounting policies

- (a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in July 2014 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).
- (b) *The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis notwithstanding an overdrawn unrestricted funds position at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. A reduction in funding from the principal funder from mid-2014 reduced the Society's income significantly but it has been stable for several years now. The trustees have taken widespread and substantial remedial to rectify the situation, and are confident that a positive position has been restored. The 2020-21 grant awards from the principal funder, albeit at a lower level than pre-2014, have been confirmed at the date of approval of the financial statements. The trustees, being mindful of all relevant factors, consider the Going Concern basis to be appropriate.*
- (c) Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in the full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. The value of the services provided by volunteers has been included.
- (d) Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are receivable.
- (e) Incoming resources from investments is included when receivable.

- (f) Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.
- (g) Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to the activity.
- (h) Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, which is estimated at five years for furniture, four years for office equipment and three years for computers.
- (i) Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- (j) Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.
- (k) Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.
- (l) Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

## 2. Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arises for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 nor for any previous periods.

### 3. Tangible fixed asset

s	Computer	Furniture	Equipment	Total
Cost				
At 1st January 2021	5,490	5,196	1,978	12,664
Additions				0
Disposals				0
At 31st December 2021	<u>5,490</u>	<u>5,196</u>	<u>1,978</u>	<u>12,664</u>
Depreciation				
At 1st January 2021	5,443	5,196	1,947	<u>12,586</u>
Charge for the year	20	0	6	26
At 31st December 2021	<u>5,463</u>	<u>5,196</u>	<u>1,953</u>	12,612
Net Book Value				
At 31st December 2021	<u>27</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>52</u>
At 31st December 2021	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER  
2021

Charity No: 1150290

Company No: 08235510

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Chairperson's Report & Report of the Trustees	3
Report of the Independent Accountants	5
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 202

1

COMPANY INFORMATION:

TRUSTEES:

Rory Ryan

Josephine Addleton

Elizabeth Flannelly

Kathleen McCarthy

Kay Forrest

REGISTERED OFFICE:

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Eaton House

Eaton Road

Coventry

CV1 2FJ

REGISTERED NUMBER: 08235510 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1150290



INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT: Simon Horsman

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT & REPORT OF THE  
TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021

Dear Members

Coventry Irish Society is an organisation which works predominantly with older Irish people with a specific target to support the vulnerable Irish. Our overall aim is to alleviate poverty, improve health and address social isolation in our local Irish community

CIS is made up of Trustees, Employees & Volunteers, but the beating heart of our charity is our members and their passion to continuously keep alive our Irish heritage in the city that we call home. Our commitment to our members is still as strong as ever and although we may have changed how we have done a few things, the foundation of our ethos remains unchanged.

The Charity will continue to prioritise the needs of the vulnerable Irish by targeting resources to ensure that our vulnerable community's health and welfare needs are being met. In addition to day to day advice and outreach services the Charity will conduct a half day per week Dementia Support Service to ensure this objective is being met. The Charity will also prioritise Irish Survivors in the Midlands having recently secured funding for Irish Survivors specialist services. This project will target existing Survivors on our database and new Survivors claiming compensation from the forthcoming Mother and Baby Homes Redress Scheme. General advice will continue to provide support for people seeking Irish citizenship, Irish Passports, and general welfare enquiries such as help with utility bills, Council Tax etc. The Charity recently acquired rent free premises on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Eaton House, Eaton Road, Coventry. This very spacious office allows us to host all

our day to day services as well as exhibit our Oral History project 'Irish Heart, Coventry Home'. The premises create a great space for social befriending and events as well as new opportunities for volunteers and visitors. There will be a café atmosphere along with the history exhibition. We are extremely grateful to 'Avire' the Charity that organised this move for us and to 'Friargate Projects' Ltd that have given us the 3 year contract. The Charity recently developed a new 3 year fundraising plan that includes an online membership drive of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Irish and our new website that will be launched in November 2022. I would like to thank our main long-term funder the 'Emigrant Support Programme' for their commitment to the Irish community and the charity, as well as some of our other long term and recent funders, The Ireland Fund of Great Britain, The National Lottery Community Fund, The Heart of England the Big Lottery and the Irish Youth Foundation for their fantastic support to the Irish community. Mostly I would like to thank all our members, clients and volunteers for their support of the Charity.

### Report of the Trustees

The Trustees who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act submit their Report together with the reviewed Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2020. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 in preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

The Charity is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee and was set up on 1st October 2012 and commenced to trade on 1st January 2013. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

### Objectives

The Charity's objectives are:

- to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Coventry and surrounding areas with particular reference to those who are Irish or of Irish descent;
- to relieve sickness and old age, preserve and protect good health and advance education and training;

- to address issues of deprivation, social exclusion and isolation related to poor health and old age, preserve and protect good mental and physical health and spiritual well-being;
- to promote culturally appropriate housing, health and social welfare services and recreational and other leisure time occupations with the object of improving the quality for the said inhabitants.

#### Risks management

The Trustees conduct their own review of major risks to which the Charity is exposed, these procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the Charity and are as follows:

- an annual review of the risks which the Charity may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified;
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should any of the risks materialise.

#### Financial Review and Reserves Policy

The company's "results" and position at 31st December 2020 are set out in the accounts on pages 7 to 10. There were negative unrestricted reserves at 31st December 2020, and the trustees are continuing to seek to address this and establish an appropriate reserves policy including a new 3 year plan.

#### Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Coventry Irish Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charitable Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material . departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation. The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charitable Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charitable Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In so far as the Trustees are aware:
- there is no relevant Audit information of which the Charitable Company's Auditor is unaware; and • the Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant Audit information and to establish that the Auditor is aware of that information.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees by:




---

Chairperson

Print name: Rory Ryan

Date 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

### **2020 - Independent Accountant's Report on the Accounts**

I have both prepared the financial statements of the Coventry Irish Society (CIS). The circumstances whereby this has come about are discussed in Section 4 of this report. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable

law and Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

This report is made wholly to the CIS Trustees on the examination of the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and reporting accountant.

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibility Statement, the trustees (who, for the purposes of company law, are also the directors of the charitable company) are responsible for the records from which these accounts have been prepared. Normally, they would also be responsible for preparing the accounts, leaving the independent accountant merely the task of reviewing the accounts, but this year that was not possible and the independent accountant has prepared the accounts and take responsibility for them showing a true and fair view, subject to the note below. In doing so I have followed applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Scope of the accounts

The accounts concerned are in accordance with the underlying books and records of the organisation and have been verified with reference to external documents (e.g. bank statements) where this is feasible. Being acceptable to us, I have not changed any accounting policies from past years. have not received a trustees' report for the year and so have no comment to make.

Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern".

The situation as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 was unchanged from earlier years so I am using the text from 2018 prepared by Mark Holmes and me. For clarity it is italicised. The figures we inherited from the years to December 2013 and 2014 were both subject to audit qualifications. In these circumstances we are unable to satisfy ourselves as to the appropriateness of the original figures and in particular the analysis of restricted and unrestricted funds. This

impacts on later figures, especially the analysis of the capital funds on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 (the first period for which we were acting as independent accountants) as at the earlier year ends. On the other hand, readers may wish to note and take some comfort from the fact that funders have not responded to these qualified figures in such a way as to indicate that they were unhappy with the position revealed.

It is also necessary to state that in determining whether Coventry Irish Society ("CIS") is a going concern the accountant must be mindful that, like many charitable bodies, CIS's activities in both scale and direction are driven by the grants it is awarded. Changes in grants will impact CIS's future activities. This is not to say that CIS would not be able to continue but that its scope will always have to be adjusted to its resources.

#### Qualified Opinion on the financial statements.

In my opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern" paragraphs, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the charitable company's affairs at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK generally accepted accounting Practice (applicable to smaller entities), and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed: SJLH Horsman

Print name: SIMON HORSMAN

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022



Coventry Irish Society  
 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
 (Incorporating Income and Expenditure Account)  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

	Unrestrict ed funds	Restrict ed funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
Grants & Donations				
Dept. of Foreign Affairs:				
Emigrant Support Programme			57,483	68,234
Less: Clawback				4
UK Lottery/Covid Grant			Nil	10,00
Other Grants			3,000	0
Other Income (including fundraising)			4,526	12,540
				5,028
<b>Total incoming resources</b>			<b>65,009</b>	<b>95,802</b>
 <b>Resources expended</b>				
Staff costs (including NI)			47,253	53,409
Covid Costs				21,156
Survivors' Project				98
Other expenses and support costs			8,393	9,140
Office Rent			9,000	6,250
<b>Total resources expended</b>			<b>64,646</b>	<b>90,053</b>

Surplus/(Deficit) Net outgoing resources	(8,147)	363	5,74 8
---	---------	-----	-----------

Coventry Irish Society  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020	
Fixed Assets	3	52	78	
Current assets				
Bank and cash		64,831	38,876	
Total Current Assets		64,831	38,876	
Current Liabilities				
Deferred income (ESP Grant)		(56,225)	(30,250)	
Other Creditors			(578)	
Accruals (Credit Card)		(393)	(1)	
PAYE & NI		(327)	38	
			(4)	
			13	
			)	
Total Current Liabilities		(56,945)	(31,379)	(31,379)
Net Current Assets (Working Capital)		7,886	7,497	7,497
Total Net Assets		7,938	7,575	
Surplus/Deficit		363	5,748	

Fund Balances brought forward	7,575	1,827
Fund Balances Carried forward	<u>7,938</u>	<u>7,575</u>

*DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE: EMIGRANT SUPPORT PROGRAMME Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: The Emigrant Support Programme received grant of €65,500 for the year from 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2021. The funds were restricted for the following projects: Outreach Project £57,500, Lunch Club £2,000, St. Patrick's Day £1000 Youth Steering Project £5,000. Six months grant income was utilised in the period to 31st December 2020. Six months grant income amounting to £35,750 has been deferred to the 2021 financial year and will be utilised by 30th June 2021*

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

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

On behalf of the board

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on  
29<sup>th</sup> September 2022

The annexed notes form part of these financial statements.

Charity number 08235510  
Company number 115029

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Print Name: Rory Ryan.....

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022.....

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021

1. Accounting policies

- (a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in July 2014 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).
- (b) *The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis notwithstanding an overdrawn unrestricted funds position at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. A reduction in funding from the principal funder from mid-2014 reduced the Society's income significantly but it has been stable for several years now. The trustees have taken widespread and substantial remedial to rectify the situation, and are confident that a positive position has been restored. The 2020-21 grant awards from the principal funder, albeit at a lower level than pre-2014, have been confirmed at the date of approval of the financial statements. The trustees, being mindful of all relevant factors, consider the Going Concern basis to be appropriate.*
- (c) Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in the full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. The value of the services provided by volunteers has been included.
- (d) Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are receivable.
- (e) Incoming resources from investments is included when receivable.

- (f) Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.
- (g) Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to the activity.
- (h) Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, which is estimated at five years for furniture, four years for office equipment and three years for computers.
- (i) Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- (j) Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.
- (k) Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.
- (l) Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

## 2. Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arises for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 nor for any previous periods.

### 3. Tangible fixed asset

s	Computer	Furniture	Equipment	Total
Cost				
At 1st January 2021	5,490	5,196	1,978	12,664
Additions				0
Disposals				0
At 31st December 2021	<u>5,490</u>	<u>5,196</u>	<u>1,978</u>	<u>12,664</u>
Depreciation				
At 1st January 2021	5,443	5,196	1,947	<u>12,586</u>
Charge for the year	20	0	6	26
At 31st December 2021	<u>5,463</u>	<u>5,196</u>	<u>1,953</u>	12,612
Net Book Value				
At 31st December 2021	<u>27</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>52</u>
At 31st December 2021	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1150290

---

# Accounts

---



# Coventry



Irish

Society



**Annual Report 2020**





## Rory Ryan Chair



### Dear Members and Friends of CIS,



It has certainly been a very difficult couple of years between 2020 & 2021 and I am so happy to have seen most of you at our first lunch club since lockdown ended. At last we can start planning what the future of CIS is going to look like post lockdown and in the coming years and I would love to hear from you all what you think that should be. In my view it would be a mistake to look to the future without remembering the past, especially those dear members and friends who are no longer with us, please join me in remembering those in your thoughts and prayers.

CIS is made up of Trustees, Employees & Volunteers, but the beating heart of our charity is our members and passion to continuously keep alive our Irish heritage in the city that we call home. Our commitment to our members is still as strong as ever and although we may have changed how we have done a few things, the foundation of our ethos remains unchanged.

At this AGM I would like to recognise the staff of CIS;

**Daniel Morrisson** who joined CIS back in 2020 was thrown in the deep end and has proven his ability through his unwavering passion and commitment to our members & charity, he has been vital in keeping our charity running over the past few years!

**Kiera Forrest** who has been with us for over 4 years now has supported Simon and the board of trustees in maintaining services that we offer to our members. Kiera is a fantastic support to Simon as his assistant.

**Simon McCarthy** who has been with us since before time began has guided the ship through its stormiest waters including the recent COVID years, with unwavering commitment and sheer love of his job, culture and for our members and the charity itself. We would be lost without you!

From myself and the trustee board, thank you to you all for your hard work and effort during these recent years!

It's so important that I echo the thanks of our trustees to the Irish government for continuing its support of this charity when we all know the economic pressures that all countries now face after a very turbulent couple of years. I would also like to thank some of our other long term and recent funders, The Ireland Fund of Great Britain, The National Lottery Community Fund, The Heart of England and the Big Lottery for their fantastic support to the Irish community.

I would like to finish off my address to you all by asking you all to remember Kay Forrest and her family in your thoughts today and pray for the soul of her daughter Paula who recently passed away tragically, may she rest in peace.

Thank you for continuing your membership with CIS and continuing your support of our family charity, feel free to find me or any of the trustees for a chat today to share your thoughts and ideas.

Dia dhaoibh go léir.

Le meas,

**Rory Ryan - Chair Coventry Irish Society**

# Managers Report



## Dear Members and Friends of the Charity

Coventry Irish Society has continued to do our best to provide services to the Irish community since our last AGM that was held in May 2019. In March 2020 when the Lockdown was on we struck up a partnership with St Finbarrs GAA Club to deliver care packages to the vulnerable Irish community. Overall, the project was delivering care packages to 110 families/vulnerable people per-week, and this went on from March 2020 until December 2020. We also managed to deliver Hampers to 70 of our members with specific grants from the Irish Emigrant Support

Programme and the Ireland Fund of Great Britain. We were extremely grateful to the Irish Emigrant Support Programme, The National Lottery Community Fund and the Heart of England Foundation for supporting the care packages project with a total of £20,400.

The Charity reopened in April 2021 full time, and we have been providing face to face services and home visits since then. The Service is slowly building up again and there was a huge backlog of people that wanted to apply for their Irish Passports that we have now resolved.

Our Lunch Clubs began again in August 2021 and our post lockdown celebration party is on the 24<sup>th</sup> September at Flannellys and is free to members courtesy of one of the Charity's great supporters the 'Ireland Fund of Great Britain'.

From August 2021 we are looking to have bi-monthly lunch clubs either at Flannellys or Christ the King. Our Dementia Group that was very successful before Lockdown is aimed to be reinstated in October 2021, this is at Christ the King Parish Centre on a Wednesday between 12.30pm and 3pm.

Our St Patrick's Festival was sadly cancelled for the second year in a row however due to our partnership with Imagineers and Media Mania we were able to support a fantastic online event 'Culture on the Move' that was viewed by more than 6,000 people. We continue to work with Imagineers for our Youth Steering Group project, funded by the Emigrant Support Programme and the Irish Youth Foundation, with the aim of the group working on the St. Patrick's Day Festival events next year.

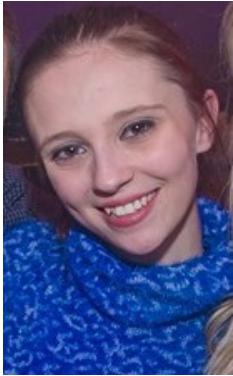
We were recently delighted to receive news of our funding from the Emigrant Support Programme for another year up until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We are extremely grateful to the Emigrant Support Programme for their support and commitment to the local Irish community and the needs of the vulnerable Irish in Coventry and Warwickshire. This year our grant includes an additional post to support Irish Survivors and we are in the process of recruiting a first-class officer to meet the needs of this vulnerable group.

I would like to thank my staff for their dedicated work and commitment to the Irish community and also our Trustees for their support and fantastic commitment to the Charity. Also, as ever I would like to thank our Honorary President, David Cairns for his support and contribution to the Charity. The last year was particularly sad for David as he lost his soul mate and life partner Nancy as well his brother Austin whom he was very close to. Coventry Irish Society's wonderful tribute to Nancy demonstrated what a remarkable woman she was.

Lastly, I would like to thank all our members, supporters and volunteers for their wonderful support. I hope the next year will be a much better one for everyone and particularly there will be no more lockdowns and the social isolation this causes. I look forward to seeing you all at our events.

**Simon McCarthy**

## Kiera Forrest P.A. to Manager



Hello All,

I am both the administrator and P.A. to the manager at CIS. My role includes finance systems, service databases, marketing, and social media.

I maintain our website and social media pages as well as designing and preparing newsletters and event flyers. I also take part in the running of our events and regularly take photo's during them which I then upload to Facebook for anyone who wishes to download a copy for themselves.

I also help people in renewing their Irish Passports along with applying for their first time and regularly give support and advice in applying for Foreign Birth Registrations for those of third-generation Irish.

The past year and a half has been a really trying time for everyone, both personally and for the charity, but I spent much of my time during the lockdown calling many of our members and speaking to each of you helped me as much as it did you, it was a time where we all banded together and looked out for one another on a more personal level and I truly enjoyed getting to know all those I spoke to so much better than I did before.

I am so glad we have been able to restart our events and see all of you again in person and I remain happy to help any of you who needs it.

I wish you all the best,

**Kiera Forrest**

### **Stakeholder Survey**

Coventry Irish Society is conducting a survey of our members and clients to find out your views and understand how we can meet the needs of our community better.

The survey is anonymous and no names are required, only your views.

If you would like to help the Charity with this please complete the questionnaire that is part of your AGM pack today.

**Thank You from the CIS Team**



# Daniel Morrison

## Health Workers Report



Since I joined in 2020, my role in Coventry Irish Society has mainly been to continue to help and support members of the Irish community in Coventry (but often further afield) to the best of our abilities, this covers a broad range of services, that are continually growing and adapting to our communities needs.

More recently In 2021, with COVID restrictions easing and people being able to travel, this has meant keeping regularly up to date with government advice and restrictions. In doing so we have been able us to pass on the most current and reliable information to our members. With people finally being able to travel back to Ireland to see family and friends that they have missed for the past 18 months, I have been kept busy helping members organise their trips, filling out passenger locator forms and organising COVID vaccination certificates to enable them to travel.

Irish Passport applications and renewals continue to prove a popular service that we offer, we have noticed an increase in people struggling with their applications, and so using our services for support, mainly due to the Irish DFA dealing with huge backlog of applications whilst their offices were closed for the majority of lockdown (with some services still unavailable).

The Society continues to enable many member of the Irish community in Coventry (including some of the most vulnerable) to access services they may struggle to without our help. I have tried to continue the previous staff members (Ann, Win and many before) amazing efforts to offer support and advice on health and welfare, ranging from advice on claiming and receiving benefits, to helping members find the best value car insurance! Many of our members are either unable to access the internet or not comfortable using a computer independently, so we continue to support them in this way to allow them to access the services they need/are entitled too.

I frequently liaise within a network of charities and organisations across Coventry to be able to point our members in the right direction if we are not able to help them in house. Through doing this we have built a strong, working relationship, with a good few other organisations, and so are more equipped to deal with a more specialist issues. This year the society has saved our members thousands of pounds through working with organisations like the NEA to get our members on the most efficient tariffs. Through working with them we have also been able to new boilers for many of our members.

Look forward to seeing you at our events

**Daniel Morrison**





# Statement of Financial Activities



Coventry Irish Society					
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION					
(Balance Sheet)					
As At 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020					
		2020		2019	
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	3		78		117
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Bank and Cash			38,876		32,496
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Deferred Income (ESP Grant)		30,250		30,250	
Other Creditors		578			
Accruals		138		231	
PAYE & NI		413		305	
Total		31,379	31,379	30,786	30,786
<b>Equals Net Current Assets/ Working Capital</b>			7,497		1,710
<b>Net Assets</b>			7,575		1,827
Surplus/(Deficit)			5,748		(8,147)
Fund Balances Brought Forward			1,827		9,974
Fund Balances Carried Forward			7,575		1,827
Being					
Restricted Funds					69,888
Unrestricted Funds					(68,061)



# Balance Sheet 2020



Coventry Irish Society				
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES				
(Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)				
For the Year Ended 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020				
	Unrestricted £ Funds	Restricted £ Funds	Total £ 2020	Total £ 2019
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
Grants and Donations				
Irish Dept of Foreign Affairs				
(Emigrant Support Programme)		68,234	68,234	60,500
(Oral History Project)			0	1,732
UK Lottery/Covid	10,000		10,000	
Other Grants		12,540	12,540	8,945
Other Income	5,028		5,028	9,271
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,028</b>	<b>80,774</b>	<b>95,802</b>	<b>79,448</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Staff Costs			53,409	50,163
Oral History Project (direct costs)			0	2,392
Survivors' Project			98	9,009
Other Projects			0	4,523
Office Rent			6,250	4,970
Other Expenses and Support Costs			9,140	16,538
Covid Costs			21,156	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>90,053</b>	<b>87,595</b>
Surplus/(Deficit)			5,748	(8,147)
Fund Balances Brought Forward	(68,061)	69,888		9,974
Fund Balances Carried Forward				1,827

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

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



# Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs



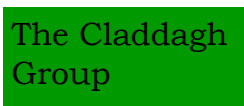
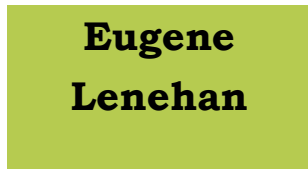
Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí  
Cork City Council



HM Government

In partnership with

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY  
COMMUNITY FUND



COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER  
2020

Charity No: 1150290

Company No: 08235510

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Chairperson's Report & Report of the Trustees	3
Report of the Independent Accountants	5
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020

COMPANY INFORMATION:

TRUSTEES:

Rory Ryan

Josephine Addleton

Elizabeth Flannelly

Kathleen McCarthy

Kay Forrest

REGISTERED OFFICE:

Coventry Irish Society

41 Smithford Way,

Coventry

CVI IGY

REGISTERED NUMBER: 08235510 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1150290

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT: Simon Horsman



COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT & REPORT OF THE  
TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020

Dear Members

It has certainly been a very difficult couple of years between 2020 & 2021. At last, we can start planning what the future of CIS is going look like post lockdown and in the coming years and I would love to hear from all our stakeholders about what you think that should be. In my view it would be a mistake to look to the future without remembering the past, especially those dear members and friends who are no longer with us, please join me in remembering those in your thoughts and prayers.

CIS is made up of Trustees, Employees & Volunteers, but the beating heart of our charity is our members and passion to continuously keep alive our Irish heritage in the city that we call home. Our commitment to our members is still as strong as ever and although we may have changed how we have done a few things, the foundation of our ethos remains unchanged.

Coventry Irish Society has continued to do our best to provide services to the Irish community since our last AGM that was held in May 2019. In March 2020 when the Lockdown was on, we struck up a partnership with St Finbarrs GAA Club to deliver care packages to the vulnerable Irish community. Overall, the project was delivering care packages to 110 families/vulnerable people per-week, and this went on from March 2020 until December 2020. We also managed to deliver Hampers to 70 of our members with specific grants from the Irish Emigrant Support Programme and the Ireland Fund of Great Britain. We were extremely grateful to the Irish Emigrant Support Programme, The National Lottery Community Fund and the Heart of England Foundation for supporting the care packages project with a total of £20,400.

The Charity reopened in April 2021 full time, and we have been providing face to face services and home visits since then. The Service is slowly building up again and there was a huge backlog of people that wanted to apply for their Irish Passports that we have now resolved.

I would like to thank our main long-term funder the Emigrant Support Programme for their commitment to the Irish community and the charity, as well as some of our other long term and recent funders, The Ireland Fund of Great Britain, The National Lottery Community Fund, The Heart of England and the Big Lottery for their fantastic support to the Irish community.

Our long-term aim is to find permanent premises for the Charity. Our target for the next 12 months is to raise enough money to refurbish St Osburgs Parish Centre where the charity can be relocated to in the long-term. This prospect gives the charity the opportunity to house all our welfare and cultural services as well as providing social befriending support. The venture creates an opportunity to build up our unrestricted income to help the charity become more sustainable in the long-term.

### Report of the Trustees

The Trustees who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act submit their Report together with the reviewed Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2019. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 in preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

The Charity is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee and was set up on 1st October 2012 and commenced to trade on 1st January 2013. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

### Objectives

The Charity's objectives are:

- to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Coventry and surrounding areas with particular reference to those who are Irish or of Irish descent;
- to relieve sickness and old age, preserve and protect good health and advance education and training;
- to address issues of deprivation, social exclusion and isolation related to poor health and old age, preserve and protect good mental and physical health and spiritual well-being;

- to promote culturally appropriate housing, health and social welfare services and recreational and other leisure time occupations with the object of improving the quality for the said inhabitants.

#### Risks management

The Trustees conduct their own review of major risks to which the Charity is exposed, these procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the Charity and are as follows:

- an annual review of the risks which the Charity may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified;
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should any of the risks materialise.

#### Financial Review and Reserves Policy

The company's "results" and position at 31st December 2019 are set out in the accounts on pages 7 to 11. There were negative unrestricted reserves at 31st December 2019, and the trustees are continuing to seek to address this and establish an appropriate reserves policy.

#### Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Coventry Irish Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charitable Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material . departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation. The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charitable Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charitable Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In so far as the Trustees are aware:
  - there is no relevant Audit information of which the Charitable Company's Auditor is unaware; and
  - the Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant Audit information and to establish that the Auditor is aware of that information.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Print name: Rory Ryan

Date 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

## **2020 - Independent Accountant's Report on the Accounts**

I have both prepared the financial statements of the Coventry Irish Society (CIS). The circumstances whereby this has come about are discussed in Section 4 of this report. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

This report is made wholly to the CIS Trustees on the examination of the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and reporting accountant.

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibility Statement, the trustees (who, for the purposes of company law, are also the directors of the charitable company) are responsible for the records from which these accounts have been prepared. Normally, they would also be responsible for preparing the accounts, leaving the independent accountant merely the task of reviewing the accounts, but this year that was not possible and the independent accountant has prepared the accounts and take responsibility for them showing a true and fair view, subject to the note below. In doing so I have followed applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Scope of the accounts

The accounts concerned are in accordance with the underlying books and records of the organisation and have been verified with reference to external documents (e.g. bank statements) where this is feasible. Being acceptable to us, I have not changed any accounting policies from past years. have not received a trustees' report for the year and so have no comment to make.

Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern".

The situation as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 was unchanged from earlier years so I am using the text from 2018 prepared by Mark Holmes and me. For clarity it is italicised. The figures we inherited from the years to December 2013 and 2014 were both subject to audit qualifications. In these circumstances we are unable to satisfy ourselves as to the appropriateness of the original figures and in particular the analysis of restricted and unrestricted funds. This impacts on later figures, especially the analysis of the capital funds on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 (the first period for which we were acting as independent accountants) as at the earlier year ends. On the other hand, readers may wish to note and take some comfort from the fact

that funders have not responded to these qualified figures in such a way as to indicate that they were unhappy with the position revealed.

It is also necessary to state that in determining whether Coventry Irish Society ("CIS") is a going concern the accountant must be mindful that, like many charitable bodies, CIS's activities in both scale and direction are driven by the grants it is awarded. Changes in grants will impact CIS's future activities. This is not to say that CIS would not be able to continue but that its scope will always have to be adjusted to its resources.

#### Qualified Opinion on the financial statements.

In my opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern" paragraphs, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the charitable company's affairs at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK generally accepted accounting Practice (applicable to smaller entities), and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed: SJLH Horsman

Print name: SIMON HORSMAN

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Coventry Irish Society				
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES				
(Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)				
For the Year Ended 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020				
	Unrestrict ed £ Funds	Restrict ed £ Funds	Total £ 2020	Total £ 2019
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
Grants and Donations				
Irish Dept of Foreign Affairs				
(Emigrant Support Programme)		68,234	68,234	60,500
(Oral History Project)			0	1,732
UK Lottery/Covid	10,000		10,000	
Other Grants		12,540	12,540	8,945
Other Income	5,028		5,028	9,271
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,028</b>	<b>80,774</b>	<b>95,802</b>	<b>79,448</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Staff Costs			53,409	50,163
Oral History Project (direct costs)			0	2,392
Survivors' Project			98	9,009
Other Projects			0	4,523
Office Rent			6,250	4,970
Other Expenses and Support Costs			9,140	16,538
Covid Costs			21,156	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>90,053</b>	<b>87,595</b>
Surplus/(Deficit)			5,748	(8,147)

Fund Balances Brought Forward	(68,061)	69,888		9,974
Fund Balances Carried Forward				1,827

Coventry Irish Society					
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION					
(Balance Sheet)					
As At 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020					
		2020		2019	
	Not e	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	3		78		117
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Bank and Cash			38,876		32,496
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Deferred Income (ESP Grant)		30,250		30,250	
Other Creditors		578			
Accruals		138		231	
PAYE & NI		413		305	
Total		31,379	31,379	30,786	30,786
<b>Equals Net Current Assets/ Working Capital</b>			7,497		1,710
<b>Net Assets</b>			7,575		1,827

Surplus/(Deficit)			5,748		(8,147)
Fund Balances Brought Forward			1,827		9,974
Fund Balances Carried Forward			7,575		1,827
Being					
Restricted Funds					69,888
Unrestricted Funds					(68,061)

*DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE: EMIGRANT SUPPORT PROGRAMME* Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: The Emigrant Support Programme received grant of €60,500 for the year from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2020. The funds were restricted for the following projects: Outreach Project €57,500, Lunch Club 2,000, St. Patrick's Day 1000. Six months grant income was utilised in the period to 31st December 2020. Six months grant income amounting to £30,750 has been deferred to the 2021 financial year and will be utilised by 30th June 2021.

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

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

On behalf of the board

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021

The annexed notes form part of these financial statements.

. Charity number 08235510  
Company number 115029



---

Chairperson

Print Name: Rory Ryan.....

Date: 2<sup>th</sup> September 2021.....

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020

1. Accounting policies

- (a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in July 2014 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).
- (b) *The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis notwithstanding an overdrawn unrestricted funds position at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. A reduction in funding from the principal funder from mid-2014 reduced the Society's income significantly but it has been stable for several years now. The trustees have taken widespread and substantial remedial to rectify the situation, and are confident that a positive position has been restored. The 2020-21 grant awards from the principal funder, albeit at a lower level than pre-2014, have been confirmed at the date of approval of the financial statements. The trustees, being mindful of all relevant factors, consider the Going Concern basis to be appropriate.*
- (c) Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in the full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. The value of the services provided by volunteers has been included.
- (d) Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are receivable.
- (e) Incoming resources from investments is included when receivable.
- (f) Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.
- (g) Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to the activity.
- (h) Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, which is estimated at five years for furniture, four years for office equipment and three years for computers.

- (i) Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- (j) Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes. Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.
- (k) Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

## 2. Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arises for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 nor for any previous period.

<b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>				
	Computer	Furniture	Equipm ent	Total
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1st January 2020	5,4 90	5,1 96	1,978	12,66 4
Disposals				
At 31st December 2020	5,490	5,196	1,978	12,66 4
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1st January 2020	5,404	5,196	1,947	<u>12,54</u> <u>7</u>
Charge for the year	29		10	39
At 31st December 2020				
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
At 1st January 2020	86	0	31	117
At 31st December 2020	57	0	21	78

#### 4. Unrestricted funds

	Balanc e at 1st Janua ry 2020 £	Movement in resources		Balanc e at 31st Decem ber 2020 £
		Incomi ng £	Outgoi ng £	
Unrestrict ed funds	(68,06 1)	9,271	(17,41 8)	59,914

1.

#### 4. Restrict ed funds

	Balanc e at 1st Janua ry 2020 £	Movement in resources		Balanc e at 31st Decem ber 2020 £
		Incomi ng £	Outgoi ng £	
Various Program mes	69,88 8	70,177	(70,17 7)	69,888

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER  
2020

Charity No: 1150290

Company No: 08235510

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Chairperson's Report & Report of the Trustees	3
Report of the Independent Accountants	5
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020

COMPANY INFORMATION:

TRUSTEES:

Rory Ryan

Josephine Addleton

Elizabeth Flannelly

Kathleen McCarthy

Kay Forrest

REGISTERED OFFICE:

Coventry Irish Society

41 Smithford Way,

Coventry

CVI IGY

REGISTERED NUMBER: 08235510 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1150290

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT: Simon Horsman



COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT & REPORT OF THE  
TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020

Dear Members

It has certainly been a very difficult couple of years between 2020 & 2021. At last, we can start planning what the future of CIS is going to look like post lockdown and in the coming years and I would love to hear from all our stakeholders about what you think that should be. In my view it would be a mistake to look to the future without remembering the past, especially those dear members and friends who are no longer with us, please join me in remembering those in your thoughts and prayers.

CIS is made up of Trustees, Employees & Volunteers, but the beating heart of our charity is our members and passion to continuously keep alive our Irish heritage in the city that we call home. Our commitment to our members is still as strong as ever and although we may have changed how we have done a few things, the foundation of our ethos remains unchanged.

Coventry Irish Society has continued to do our best to provide services to the Irish community since our last AGM that was held in May 2019. In March 2020 when the Lockdown was on, we struck up a partnership with St Finbarrs GAA Club to deliver care packages to the vulnerable Irish community. Overall, the project was delivering care packages to 110 families/vulnerable people per-week, and this went on from March 2020 until December 2020. We also managed to deliver Hampers to 70 of our members with specific grants from the Irish Emigrant Support Programme and the Ireland Fund of Great Britain. We were extremely grateful to the Irish Emigrant Support Programme, The National Lottery Community Fund and the Heart of England Foundation for supporting the care packages project with a total of £20,400.

The Charity reopened in April 2021 full time, and we have been providing face to face services and home visits since then. The Service is slowly building up again and there was a huge backlog of people that wanted to apply for their Irish Passports that we have now resolved.

I would like to thank our main long-term funder the Emigrant Support Programme for their commitment to the Irish community and the charity, as well as some of our other long term and recent funders, The Ireland Fund of Great Britain, The National Lottery Community Fund, The Heart of England and the Big Lottery for their fantastic support to the Irish community.

Our long-term aim is to find permanent premises for the Charity. Our target for the next 12 months is to raise enough money to refurbish St Osburgs Parish Centre where the charity can be relocated to in the long-term. This prospect gives the charity the opportunity to house all our welfare and cultural services as well as providing social befriending support. The venture creates an opportunity to build up our unrestricted income to help the charity become more sustainable in the long-term.

### Report of the Trustees

The Trustees who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act submit their Report together with the reviewed Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2019. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 in preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

The Charity is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee and was set up on 1st October 2012 and commenced to trade on 1st January 2013. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

### Objectives

The Charity's objectives are:

- to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Coventry and surrounding areas with particular reference to those who are Irish or of Irish descent;
- to relieve sickness and old age, preserve and protect good health and advance education and training;
- to address issues of deprivation, social exclusion and isolation related to poor health and old age, preserve and protect good mental and physical health and spiritual well-being;

- to promote culturally appropriate housing, health and social welfare services and recreational and other leisure time occupations with the object of improving the quality for the said inhabitants.

#### Risks management

The Trustees conduct their own review of major risks to which the Charity is exposed, these procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the Charity and are as follows:

- an annual review of the risks which the Charity may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified;
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Charity should any of the risks materialise.

#### Financial Review and Reserves Policy

The company's "results" and position at 31st December 2019 are set out in the accounts on pages 7 to 11. There were negative unrestricted reserves at 31st December 2019, and the trustees are continuing to seek to address this and establish an appropriate reserves policy.

#### Trustees' Responsibilities Statement


The Trustees (who are also Directors of Coventry Irish Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charitable Company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the Charitable Company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material . departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation. The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charitable Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charitable Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In so far as the Trustees are aware:
  - there is no relevant Audit information of which the Charitable Company's Auditor is unaware; and
  - the Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant Audit information and to establish that the Auditor is aware of that information.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Print name: Rory Ryan

Date 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

## **2020 - Independent Accountant's Report on the Accounts**

I have both prepared the financial statements of the Coventry Irish Society (CIS). The circumstances whereby this has come about are discussed in Section 4 of this report. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

This report is made wholly to the CIS Trustees on the examination of the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and reporting accountant.

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibility Statement, the trustees (who, for the purposes of company law, are also the directors of the charitable company) are responsible for the records from which these accounts have been prepared. Normally, they would also be responsible for preparing the accounts, leaving the independent accountant merely the task of reviewing the accounts, but this year that was not possible and the independent accountant has prepared the accounts and take responsibility for them showing a true and fair view, subject to the note below. In doing so I have followed applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Scope of the accounts

The accounts concerned are in accordance with the underlying books and records of the organisation and have been verified with reference to external documents (e.g. bank statements) where this is feasible. Being acceptable to us, I have not changed any accounting policies from past years. have not received a trustees' report for the year and so have no comment to make.

Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern".

The situation as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 was unchanged from earlier years so I am using the text from 2018 prepared by Mark Holmes and me. For clarity it is italicised. The figures we inherited from the years to December 2013 and 2014 were both subject to audit qualifications. In these circumstances we are unable to satisfy ourselves as to the appropriateness of the original figures and in particular the analysis of restricted and unrestricted funds. This impacts on later figures, especially the analysis of the capital funds on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 (the first period for which we were acting as independent accountants) as at the earlier year ends. On the other hand, readers may wish to note and take some comfort from the fact

that funders have not responded to these qualified figures in such a way as to indicate that they were unhappy with the position revealed.

It is also necessary to state that in determining whether Coventry Irish Society ("CIS") is a going concern the accountant must be mindful that, like many charitable bodies, CIS's activities in both scale and direction are driven by the grants it is awarded. Changes in grants will impact CIS's future activities. This is not to say that CIS would not be able to continue but that its scope will always have to be adjusted to its resources.

#### Qualified Opinion on the financial statements.

In my opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Reservations regarding "a true and fair view" and "Going Concern" paragraphs, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the charitable company's affairs at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK generally accepted accounting Practice (applicable to smaller entities), and
  
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed: SJLH Horsman

Print name: SIMON HORSMAN

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Coventry Irish Society				
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES				
(Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)				
For the Year Ended 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020				
	Unrestrict ed £ Funds	Restrict ed £ Funds	Total £ 2020	Total £ 2019
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
Grants and Donations				
Irish Dept of Foreign Affairs				
(Emigrant Support Programme)		68,234	68,234	60,500
(Oral History Project)			0	1,732
UK Lottery/Covid	10,000		10,000	
Other Grants		12,540	12,540	8,945
Other Income	5,028		5,028	9,271
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,028</b>	<b>80,774</b>	<b>95,802</b>	<b>79,448</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Staff Costs			53,409	50,163
Oral History Project (direct costs)			0	2,392
Survivors' Project			98	9,009
Other Projects			0	4,523
Office Rent			6,250	4,970
Other Expenses and Support Costs			9,140	16,538
Covid Costs			21,156	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>90,053</b>	<b>87,595</b>
Surplus/(Deficit)			5,748	(8,147)

Fund Balances Brought Forward	(68,061)	69,888		9,974
Fund Balances Carried Forward				1,827

Coventry Irish Society					
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION					
(Balance Sheet)					
As At 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020					
		2020		2019	
	Not e	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	3		78		117
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Bank and Cash			38,876		32,496
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Deferred Income (ESP Grant)		30,250		30,250	
Other Creditors		578			
Accruals		138		231	
PAYE & NI		413		305	
Total		31,379	31,379	30,786	30,786
<b>Equals Net Current Assets/ Working Capital</b>			7,497		1,710
<b>Net Assets</b>			7,575		1,827

Surplus/(Deficit)			5,748		(8,147)
Fund Balances Brought Forward			1,827		9,974
Fund Balances Carried Forward			7,575		1,827
Being					
Restricted Funds					69,888
Unrestricted Funds					(68,061)

*DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE: EMIGRANT SUPPORT PROGRAMME* Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: The Emigrant Support Programme received grant of €60,500 for the year from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2020. The funds were restricted for the following projects: Outreach Project €57,500, Lunch Club 2,000, St. Patrick's Day 1000. Six months grant income was utilised in the period to 31st December 2020. Six months grant income amounting to £30,750 has been deferred to the 2021 financial year and will be utilised by 30th June 2021.

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

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

On behalf of the board

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021

The annexed notes form part of these financial statements.

. Charity number 08235510  
Company number 115029



---

Chairperson

Print Name: Rory Ryan.....

Date: 2<sup>th</sup> September 2021.....

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020

1. Accounting policies

- (a) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in July 2014 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).
- (b) *The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis notwithstanding an overdrawn unrestricted funds position at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. A reduction in funding from the principal funder from mid-2014 reduced the Society's income significantly but it has been stable for several years now. The trustees have taken widespread and substantial remedial to rectify the situation, and are confident that a positive position has been restored. The 2020-21 grant awards from the principal funder, albeit at a lower level than pre-2014, have been confirmed at the date of approval of the financial statements. The trustees, being mindful of all relevant factors, consider the Going Concern basis to be appropriate.*
- (c) Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in the full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. The value of the services provided by volunteers has been included.
- (d) Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are receivable.
- (e) Incoming resources from investments is included when receivable.
- (f) Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.
- (g) Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to the activity.
- (h) Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, which is estimated at five years for furniture, four years for office equipment and three years for computers.

- (i) Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.
- (j) Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes. Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.
- (k) Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

## 2. Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arises for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 nor for any previous period.

<b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>				
	Computer	Furniture	Equipm ent	Total
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1st January 2020	5,490	5,196	1,978	12,664
Disposals				
At 31st December 2020	5,490	5,196	1,978	12,664
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1st January 2020	5,404	5,196	1,947	<u>12,547</u>
Charge for the year	29		10	39
At 31st December 2020				
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
At 1st January 2020	86	0	31	117
At 31st December 2020	57	0	21	78

#### 4. Unrestricted funds

	Balanc e at 1st Janua ry 2020 £	Movement in resources		Balanc e at 31st Decem ber 2020 £
		Incomi ng £	Outgoi ng £	
Unrestrict ed funds	(68,06 1)	9,271	(17,41 8)	59,914

#### 1.

#### 4. Restrict ed funds

	Balanc e at 1st Janua ry 2020 £	Movement in resources		Balanc e at 31st Decem ber 2020 £
		Incomi ng £	Outgoi ng £	
Various Program mes	69,88 8	70,177	(70,17 7)	69,888