



Coventry



Irish Society



Annual Report 2022





Rory Ryan Chair



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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 of 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.

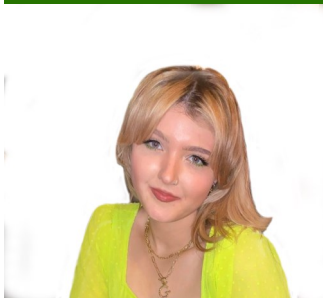
It has been great to be here to talk to and meet so many great people that are part of that wonderful Irish community that came to Coventry after the war to rebuild the city and contribute in so many ways.

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

OVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account For Years Ended December 31st 2022

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|--------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| INCOMING RESOURCES | | | | |
| 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 |
| Total incoming resources | 8,684 | 83,878 | 92,562 | 65,009 |
| RESOURCES EXPENDED | | | | |
| 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 |
| Total resources expended | 17,151 | 60,158 | 77,309 | 64,646 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) Net outgoing resources | (8,467) | 23,720 | 15,253 | 363 |



Balance Sheet 2022



| COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY - BALANCE SHEET | | | | |
|---|----------|---------------|----------|--------------|
| AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2022 | | | | |
| | 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 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | | 23,191 | | 7,938 |
| | | | | |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year | | 15,253 | | 363 |
| Fund Balances Brought Forward | | 7,938 | | 7,575 |
| Fund Balances Carried Forward | | 23,191 | | 7,938 |
| | | | | |
| FUNDS | | | | |
| 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 31st 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 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Charity No: 1150290

Company No: 08235510

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MONDAY



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COMPANIES HOUSE

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

COMPANY INFORMATION:

TRUSTEES:

Rory Ryan

Josephine Addleton

Elizabeth Flannelly

Kathleen McCarthy

Kay Forrest

Michael Fitzgerald

REGISTERED OFFICE:

2nd 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 31ST 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 2nd 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 2nd and 3rd 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 27th 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 31st 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 31st 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 31st 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 31st 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: 27th September 2024

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

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| INCOMING RESOURCES | | | | |
| Donations and Fundraising | 8,137 | | 8,137 | 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 |
| Total incoming resources | 9,037 | 65,667 | 74,704 | 92,562 |
| RESOURCES EXPENDED | | | | |
| 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 |
| Total resources expended | 19,944 | 80,793 | 100,737 | 77,309 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) Net outgoing resources | (10,907) | (15,126) | (26,033) | 15,253 |

| COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY - BALANCE SHEET | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------------|----------|---------------|
| AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023 | | | | |
| | 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 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS (deficit) | | (2,842) | | 23,191 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year | | (26,033) | | 15,253 |
| Fund Balances Brought Forward | | 23,191 | | 7,938 |
| Fund Balances Carried Forward | | (2,842) | | 23,191 |
| FUNDS | | | | |
| 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 27th 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 31ST 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 31st 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 1st July to 30th 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 |
| COST | | | | |
| 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 |
| | | | | |
| Less DEPRECIATION | | | | |
| 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 |
| | | | | |
| = NET BOOK VALUE | 12 | 0 | 11 | 23 |
| At 31st December 2023 | | | | |

NOTE 3. Taxation

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

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

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Charity No: 1150290

Company No: 08235510

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COMPANIES HOUSE

COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

COMPANY INFORMATION:

TRUSTEES:

Rory Ryan

Josephine Addleton

Elizabeth Flannelly

Kathleen McCarthy

Kay Forrest

Michael Fitzgerald

REGISTERED OFFICE:

2nd 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 31ST 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 2nd 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 2nd and 3rd 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 27th 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 31st 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 31st 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 31st 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 31st 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: 27th September 2024

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

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| INCOMING RESOURCES | | | | |
| Donations and Fundraising | 8,137 | | 8,137 | 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 |
| Total incoming resources | 9,037 | 65,667 | 74,704 | 92,562 |
| RESOURCES EXPENDED | | | | |
| 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 |
| Total resources expended | 19,944 | 80,793 | 100,737 | 77,309 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) Net outgoing resources | (10,907) | (15,126) | (26,033) | 15,253 |

| COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY - BALANCE SHEET | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------------|----------|---------------|
| AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023 | | | | |
| | 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 |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS (deficit) | | (2,842) | | 23,191 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year | | (26,033) | | 15,253 |
| Fund Balances Brought Forward | | 23,191 | | 7,938 |
| Fund Balances Carried Forward | | (2,842) | | 23,191 |
| FUNDS | | | | |
| 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 27th 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 31ST 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 31st 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 1st July to 30th 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 |
| COST | | | | |
| 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 |
| | | | | |
| Less DEPRECIATION | | | | |
| 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 |
| | | | | |
| = NET BOOK VALUE | 12 | 0 | 11 | 23 |
| At 31st December 2023 | | | | |

NOTE 3. Taxation

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

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