

LEEK & DISTRICT SAMARITANS

England & Wales · Charity number 1173725

Details

Other names LEEK AND DISTRICT SAMARITANS

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-07-07

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

Contact

Address Ground Floor
Alexandra Mill
Queen Street
Leek
ST13 6LP

Phone 01538388456

Email LEEK.DIRECTOR@SAMARITANS.ORG

Website www.samaritans.org/branches/leek-and-district-samaritans

Activities

Objects: TO ENABLE PERSONS IN LEEK AND THE SURROUNDING AREA AS WELL AS ELSEWHERE WHO ARE EXPERIENCING FEELINGS OF DISTRESS OR DESPAIR, INCLUDING THOSE WHO MAY BE AT RISK OF SUICIDE, TO RECEIVE CONFIDENTIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY OR NIGHT IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THEIR EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF SUICIDE; TO PROMOTE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING IN SOCIETY OF SUICIDE, SUICIDAL BEHAVIOUR AND THE VALUE OF EXPRESSING FEELINGS WHICH MAY OTHERWISE LEAD TO SUICIDE OR IMPAIRED EMOTIONAL HEALTH; AND TO COLLABORATE WITH AND SUPPORT SAMARITANS CENTRAL CHARITY AND ITS AFFILIATED BRANCHES IN FULFILLING THESE OBJECTS.

Activities: Emotional and suicidal support services

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Staffordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£20,705	£28,440	-	-
2024-03-31	£14,615	£16,873	-	-
2023-03-31	£9,434	£17,179	-	-
2022-03-31	£3,899	£22,989	-	-
2021-03-31	£9,449	£30,189	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Gresty		2024-04-01
Dr Maureen Joy Majekodunmi		2024-09-01
MARGARET STEVENSON		2017-10-10
MICK DWYER		2017-10-10
Pamela Christine Gregory		2021-08-24
Susan Trafford		2025-01-14
Timothy Armstrong		2024-09-09
VIC GOODWIN		2017-10-10

Linked charities

- LEEK AND DISTRICT SAMARITANS (1173725-1)

LEEK & DISTRICT SAMARITANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1173725

Accounts

Directors Report

This year has been an eventful year here at Leeks Samaritans.

Firstly, I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to Dave Lewis, who stepped down after two years as Interim Branch Director. I think this was at least a year longer than he bargained for and his contribution was immense. The branch might not have survived without his cheerful, steadying presence. However, one thing I won't thank him for is the moving anecdote which he told at the last AGM. Some of you will remember it. Fortunately for you all, I'm not going to attempt to compete by doing something similar, although I will let you in on a secret. When I congratulated him on the story some weeks later, he gave me that big Dave Lewis smirk and said, 'I pinched it from a book. It was too good to resist'. The scoundrel!

This year we have brought forward the AGM date so that we have more time get the accounts into the Charity Commissioners. The accounts have to be presented to the volunteers before they can be submitted and the old September date meant there was very little time to get them in before the annual deadline. So this means that Leek Samaritans 2024-2025 was a shorter than usual year and mercifully for you (and me), there is less for me to report on.

November saw the replacement of our old 'Connect' system with Listening Centre, which uses the internet to connect instead of the traditional phone lines. This was a necessary change – the old lines were supposed to be switched off this year, though that keeps slipping – they'll be gone by the end of the century for sure. After a few teething problems it has proved quite stable and the sound quality is certainly better than it used to be using the old BT lines.

One event I would especially like to mention was the Christmas meal at Chennai's in the High Street. The food was good, the company was excellent, the service was great and I've received absolutely no commission from them for this plug. Thanks to Pam 553 for arranging the event. Also thanks to her for organising the Christmas raffle. We raised well over £500 and probably could have sold a few more tickets. People were actually asking her for more books in the end.

In February, we also held the first Power of Listening event at the Foxlowe Centre. This was a big success. Whilst turnout was modest we gained a great deal of experience from the event and are adapting it to be used as an Outreach 'Roadshow'. I think it was also a very good exercise in building on the wonderful Leek brother(and sister)hood of Samaritans. So many of us were involved whether in the presentation or in attendance. Thanks especially to Steve 603 for his tireless enthusiasm and hard work in developing and hosting the presentation, to David 593, the Wise to Steve's Morecombe, and all those who told their moving stories during the event. Thanks also to those who help book the venue, distribute the posters, talk to the press and other media and did all the rest of the work needed.

Also in February, we received a grant of £15,200 from the National Lottery. Thanks, both to them and to Tracy 512 who made this happen.

I'd also like to mention our Branch Secretary, Margo, who in most years beavers away diligently in the background, but this year, thanks to the horrors of initiating the new DBS system, has become one of our most well-known volunteers. She got us ALL through it in the end – a superb achievement. Thanks also to my Deputy, David 593, our Treasurer Mick 499 and the rest of the BTM who put in so much work behind the scenes.

Leek Samaritans is a team and I think something of a family. Many volunteers have been with us for many years and are old friends, and, in my opinion, they are unfailingly welcoming and supportive to new volunteers, making the Leek Office a happy place to be – even after a difficult call. I'd like to pay tribute to all of my predecessors for building this atmosphere.

Nonetheless, some of the same challenges that existed last year still persist. The biggest challenge is our lack of numbers. We are down to about 30 listening volunteers and when holidays, sicknesses and other absences are taken into account, that number drops to the low twenties at any particular moment. This can make it difficult to fill shifts and does mean that sometimes people sign up for a shift but cannot find a partner. We do need to fill more shifts in order to continue to make a good contribution to Samaritans as a whole. Our donors who keep us going with their grants, bequests and fivers in the tin rightly expect that we will be manning the lines, helping those in need. We do need to avoid a situation where SCO starts to question whether it's worth having a branch in Leek. I'd ask that you all be as flexible as you can be in order to get the number of shifts worked as high as possible. A night shift has also been reinstated and I'd encourage everyone to try to do one as often as they can – these are the hours when our help is most needed.

As many of you know 2026 is our 60th anniversary and Pam and her team are planning some exciting stuff for us. This is going to be a celebration for ourselves as much as a fund-raising or profile-building thing. I'm sure we're all going to have a great time. Personally, I'm not going to do any parachute jumping, though I'm very happy to come along and help scrape up the remains of those who are. There's still time to get a few more recipes into our book – let Pam know if you have one.

Starting soon, almost immediately I hope, our old friend Bertie will be laid to rest and replaced by 3 Rings, which you have all been getting to know. Vic 485 has been Bertie's dedicated carer for many years now and will be transferring his attentions to a hopefully more vibrant patient. I think 3 Rings is just about as easy to use as Bertie and it does allow us to store, and make available for volunteers to read, a host of documents than have historically been stored in ring-binders scattered around the Ops Room or just generally mislaid!

Dave Lewis gave four priorities in his report last year and these remain to the forefront:

- Continue to recruit, train and increase our volunteer team
- Reduce the number of leavers with short service at the branch
- To increase Samaritans presence in the local community
- To encourage volunteers to regularly undertake night shifts

We have certainly been active in pursuing these objectives and have managed to recruit some really promising new volunteers, though, of course, we need more.

The Power of Listening Event certainly raised our profile and we are in discussions with the new leader of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council with regard to becoming one of their two favoured charities for the coming year. Hopefully this will help us raise our profile (and a bit of cash). Thanks to Andrew 615 for liasing.

So, in conclusion, and as usual, I'd just like to thank all of you for all you do.

**Leek & District Samaritans
 Receipts and Payments Account
 for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund Welfare	Restricted fund Outreach	2024/25 Total funds	2023/24 Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Donations	20529	0	0	20529	6572
Fundraising	176	0	0	176	7887
Bank & Building Society interest	0	0	0	0	156
Total receipts	<u>20705</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>20705</u>	<u>14615</u>
Payments					
Property overheads & maintenance	21461	0	0	21461	11369
Governance costs	6979	0	0	6979	5504
Total payments	<u>28440</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>28440</u>	<u>16873</u>
Net of receipts/(payments)	-7735	0	0	-7735	-2258
Opening cash funds	41637			41637	43895
Closing cash funds	<u>33902</u>			<u>33902</u>	<u>41637</u>

Leek & District Samaritans
Statement of assets and liabilities
as at 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund Welfare	Restricted fund Outreach	2024/25 Total funds	2023/24 Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash funds					
Unity Trust Bank	24613	0	0	24613	32347
Leek United Building Society	9290	0	0	9290	9290
Cash in hand	0	0	0	0	0
Total cash funds	33903	0	0	33903	41637

**Assets retained for the charity's
own use**

	Unrestricted funds Cost £
Equipment	25000

LEEK & DISTRICT SAMARITANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1173725

Accounts

Directors Report
Leek & District Samaritans
AGM 2024

Every Branch is only as good as the Volunteers within it, and I believe that Leek is an excellent example of this adage. So, a BIG thankyou from me to all the Leek Volunteers for everything that you do inside and outside of the Branch supporting those Callers in need, and spreading the name of the Branch locally. It remains a privilege to be part of such a strong Volunteering team in Leek.

Sadly, we have lost a long standing and loyal Volunteer this year with the recent sudden passing of Pat Axon. Pat fulfilled a large number of roles at Leek over the 24 years that she was with us and will be missed greatly by all in the Branch. Our thoughts and condolences are extended to Jeff, Pat's Husband, and family.

One of the reasons we are here as Volunteers is to provide a safe space to those callers who are struggling with life's issues, some of which could affect anyone of us at some point in our lives. Each factor can seem overwhelming at times to Callers, and your ability to 'just listen', provide empathy and not be judgemental should never be underestimated.

Life can also 'catch-up' with us as Volunteers, and we wish a speedy recovery to all our Volunteers who have struggled this year with illness, and those where family, work and other factors have meant that a rest period, or to step down from Volunteering, has been required. We are fortunate as a Branch to have Joy587 stepping into the role as Volunteer Support DD, and providing Volunteers with the 'internal' support that is required when needed most. With our limited Volunteer numbers, and an extremely small 'catchment' area for new Volunteers it is important that we focus on ensuring that our existing Volunteers are fully supported.

We know that recruitment is becoming more and more difficult, but we remain focused on trying every avenue possible within our existing resources to boost our volunteer numbers. We appreciate too that 'life' and 'volunteering' has changed dramatically over the past few years and as a Branch and Organisation we will have to learn to be able to accommodate this, whilst not forgetting the contribution that long-standing Volunteers have, and continue, to make.

As last year, financially as an affiliated Branch of the larger Samaritans organisation, we also have to self-fund ourselves and as with the general increase in the cost of living that is also proving to be both challenging and time consuming. Leek, however has an extremely strong community spirit and it is apparent that Leek Samaritans are well-respected within the local community. As such the current financial position of the Branch remains healthy.

Thank you to the Branch Leadership Team and Trustees without whose hard work behind the scenes the Branch would struggle. Thanks also to each and every Leek Volunteer, in every capacity in every 'team' vital to ensure that the Branch operates in line with the Organisations requirements, be that, Recruitment, Interviewing, Training, Mentoring, OGT, Leader, Fundraising, IT, Rota, Volunteer Support, Caller Support, Outreach, Grants, Treasurer & Secretary. Opportunities always exist for new Volunteers to join all the existing Teams, so never be shy to express an interest.

Currently, the Branch is in the final stages of the Branch Director Selection process and we are hopeful that an announcement will be made very soon.

There will be a large number of Volunteers attending the West Midlands Regional Conference at Yarnfield in October. Leek pro-rata for the number of Volunteers in Branch will have the highest number of attendees.

Leek & District Branch Priorities for 2025

- Maintain existing Volunteer numbers, and ensure Volunteers are supported
- New Volunteer recruitment
- Re-instate Caller Email Service
- Introduction of the Samaritans Listening Centre replacing the Link System
- Maintain 'Hours of Need' night shifts
- Preparations for the Branches 60th Anniversary in 2026

THANK YOU once again to all Volunteers without whom the Branch would not function.

Dave600
Interim Branch Director

Leek & District Samaritans
08 09 2024

Leek & District Samaritans
Charity number 1173725

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Leek & District Samaritans for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr G Graham, Independent Examiner

Mr D Lewis, Acting Director

LEEK & DISTRICT SAMARITANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1173725

Accounts

LEEK AND SISTRICK SAMARITANS

Annual report 2022-23

Our accounts show a deficit for the year of £7745. This is the difference between our income of £9434 and expenditure of £17179.

It should be noted that our income included a grant of £6000 without which our annual deficit would have been around £13700.

It is difficult to see how we could reduce our expenditure as our larger items; rent/service, heat & light and phones and IT are relatively fixed. In order to reduce the deficit in the future some attention needs to be paid to fundraising which has the added advantage of raising the charity's profile.

We do have a healthy closing balance of £43895.

MD Sept 2023

**Leek & District Samaritans
Receipts and Payments Account
for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund Welfare	Restricted fund Outreach	2022/23 Total funds	2021/22 Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Donations	1549	0	0	1549	72
Fundraising	7853	0	0	7853	3818
Bank & Building Society interest	32	0	0	32	9
Total receipts	<u>9433</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9433</u>	<u>3899</u>
Payments					
Property overheads & maintenance	12268	0	0	12268	15551
Governance costs	4911	0	0	4911	7438
Total payments	<u>17179</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>17179</u>	<u>22989</u>
Net of receipts/(payments)	-7746	0	0	-7746	-19090
Opening cash funds	51640			51640	70730
Closing cash funds	<u>43894</u>			<u>43894</u>	<u>51640</u>

Leek & District Samaritans
Statement of assets and liabilities
as at 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted fund Welfare	Restricted fund Outreach	2022/23 Total funds	2021/22 Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash funds					
Unity Trust Bank	34761	0	0	34761	42538
Leek United Building Society	9134	0	0	9134	9102
Cash in hand	0	0	0	0	0
Total cash funds	43895	0	0	43895	51640

**Assets retained for the charity's
own use**

	Unrestricted funds Cost £
Equipment	25000

LEEK & DISTRICT SAMARITANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1173725

Accounts

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES AND DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REVIEW

2021

Another year has passed so quickly! Looking back so much has been achieved despite the ongoing Covid-19 situation.

The branch itself has had an update and we now have a 'break out' area in the main lobby, a refreshed training room and a more secure ops room (a door lock is coming to the ops room so confidential materials can be kept secure when we're able to open our doors to the public again).

Our training team have worked tirelessly, and we have a new group of volunteers to welcome to the branch so welcome Joy 587, Matt 588, Jess 589, Brendan 590, Beth 592 and Claire 586!

I'd also like to welcome three new Deputy Directors to the Branch Leadership Team. Pam 553 will be taking over as Deputy Director for Outreach and Patty 584 and Amanda 568 are now Deputy Directors for Volunteer Support. Patty and Pam have also been nominated as trustees. A warm welcome to the leadership team to all three of you!

We also have a few volunteers who have sadly decided to move on, and we wish them well, especially Sylvia and Judy. For many of us, Sylvia and Judy were the first people we met when we joined the branch and their years of service to our branch will always be appreciated. I propose that we have a get together to celebrate Judy, Sylvia and past volunteers when things become safer.

As far as service delivery is concerned, the main developments recently have been the safeguarding changes affecting emails, call 'listening in' and the upsetting revelations about some volunteers from other branches taking advantage of our callers. These developments are still ongoing and being trailed but I just want to reassure everyone that Central Office is being open with developments and is including us in all decisions. We're working hard to ensure that these measures benefit both callers and volunteers. If anyone would like to discuss the ongoing process with me then please give me a call.

I understand these changes can be unsettling, but change is inevitable as we develop as a charity, and we have to move forward to make sure the great work we do in our branch is not overshadowed by the minority from elsewhere.

This will be my last directors report as in Feb next year we will begin the process of choosing a new director and they will take over at the end of June. So I still have a while to go but just want to say a million thank yous for all the help, support and laughs you've given me. Leek branch has truly been a gift to me.

**Ground Floor - Alexandra Mill, Queen Street Leek,
Staffordshire ST13 6LP**

Leek and District Samaritans is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England and Wales (1173725). Our registered office is located at Ground Floor - Alexandra Mill, Queen Street Leek, Staffordshire ST13 6LP.

Vickie 536

Branch Director

PUBLICITY AND FUNRAISING ANNUAL REVIEW

Pears Funding

We've been immensely fortunate this year by receiving 2 large grants from Severn Trent Water and the Pears Foundation. The Pears funding was designated to improve the environment of the office, increase capacity and safety measures for Covid-19. We had to apply for each item specifically and had great help from Barnaby Hopson at Central Office to guide us through the process and advise what items were suitable.

The end result is that we now have a break-out area in the main lobby where we can debrief after shift, mentor, call our leader, take a break etc. The idea was to make the lobby less office like and give us a space to prepare for and wind down after a shift. In the ops room we have new pictures, notice boards and cabinets. Many thanks to Andrew for putting all these on the wall. Also, Vic, Steve, Dave, Mick, Beverley, Pat, Sue, Pam and apologies for anyone I've missed who helped out with the moving and arranging of everything. We focused a great deal of the spending on Covid-19 safety measures, installing hand sanitiser stations, soap and towel dispensers etc.

It's been a mammoth task but thanks to all who have helped out the branch is looking great!

Hopefully as next year comes around we'll be able to get out and about more!

**Ground Floor - Alexandra Mill, Queen Street Leek,
Staffordshire ST13 6LP**

Leek and District Samaritans is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England and Wales (1173725). Our registered office is located at Ground Floor - Alexandra Mill, Queen Street Leek, Staffordshire ST13 6LP.

**Leek & District Samaritans
Receipts and Payments Account
For the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021**

Charity number 1173725