

Charity registration number 1174716

THE LUNAR SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

P Borg-Bartolo

C Stone

D LaBassiere

M Purcell

S Guy

C S Burton

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T Swani

A Ali

A Taylor

(Appointed 26 July 2022)

Charity number

1174716

Independent examiner

Thomas & Young Limited

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THE LUNAR SOCIETY

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THE LUNAR SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

As set out in the Charity's Constitution, its objectives are the advancement of education of the inhabitants of Birmingham and the surrounding region by promoting and educating in, and among other topics, the study of science, the economy, culture, conservation and the environment, local and social issues and science.

It delivers lectures, seminars, meetings and debates by experts in their field.

In shaping the objectives for the year and planning activities, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'Public Benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

INTRODUCTION

It is with great pleasure that I now present you with the Chair's report covering the second year of my two-year term as Chair of The Lunar Society. The past year has been an amazingly active period for The Lunar Society, building on the previous year's successful development after the Covid Pandemic that threatened the very existence of many organisations and businesses. In a way, thinking positively, the fact that The Lunar Society is a relatively small organisation with a very cohesive group of Trustees and members, as well as the lack of any physical assets (e.g., building), with the help of a significant Business Plan, made for agility and survival.

It is important also to realise the contemporary perspective in any event or events around us. From the continuing Russia – Ukraine war and its effects on the nearby countries and the global economy to the floods in Bangladesh and other disasters. The UK scene which we find ourselves in, is also of great importance with a barely changing and static political scene, inflation, and general disquiet about pay, acting as a background against which The Lunar Society can generate discussion. Developing on the Heritage from the original Lunar Men, who were discussing and trying to find solutions to their then engineering, technological and societal problems, The present Lunar Society can take a leaf out of their 'book' and apply that thinking to current issues.

**stimulating ideas, broadening debate, catalysing action,
– Heritage for the Future.**

SECRETARIAT

The busy year that has just flown by would not have been possible without the excellent and unstinting work that our Director, Joanne Horton, and Administrator, Wendy Meakin have assiduously carried out. While the Executive Board of Trustees (EBT) rightly take the decisions that are necessary, it often falls on the Secretariat to implement these decisions; working like cogs supercharging The Lunar Society.

Their workload has increased almost exponentially, in a real mathematical sense, with every decision taken by the EBT. I have personally tried to help and have followed my continuing principle that **'one should not ask one to do a job that one is not prepared to do oneself'**. By the same token it is recognised that the Secretariat on its own cannot implement all the jobs that are required to result in the successful completion of diarised (and non-diarised) events and tasks. With the above principle in mind, I am very keen to send out a strong clarion call **that both Members of the EBT (Trustees) as well as other Members at any level of The Lunar Society, volunteer their time and efforts** to assist in the dynamic work of The Lunar Society to ensure its further growth, stability, and influence.

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The appointment of Jo and Wendy followed the production of a business case, which itself was made possible by a grant awarded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for Emergency Funding to help Smaller Organisations and Charities, through the Covid Pandemic. This grant followed a bid to the NLHF in my then position as Vice Chair in 2020.

STRUCTURE

The Lunar Society, in the spirit of its late 18th Century founders, through its EBT, has never been an organisation to stand still. Given that its members and, consequently, EBT members, come from various walks of life, and are 'thinkers' and 'doers', new ideas about The Lunar Society's role in life in Birmingham, the Midlands, nationally and internationally occur organically. This is very much to be welcomed and is a vital role to keep The Lunar Society apolitical, topical, and non-partisan, yet indicating where development in a wide variety of scenarios can be improved.

EBT Meetings are now held bi-monthly to allow for the discussion generated within the EBT to be easier to stimulate and follow up. It makes the EBT more dynamic and allows for the participation of all the EBT members and non-EBT members if they show an interest.

The Working Party (WP) system established in the first year of my term has further remained and has been expanded by the addition of two further WPs as below: -

- a) Heritage – Peter Borg-Bartolo (PB-B) to lead.
- b) Nominations and Awards – Vice Chair to lead.

As regards the remaining WPs, all remain as originally set up, with minor changes in lead and remit. The 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion' WP has been re-named 'Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion' WP and is now led by Atif Ali (AA), who has kindly agreed to take over this role and energise this Working Party's task. AA has recently organised, masterminded and launched an extensive and far-reaching fact-finding report "The Birmingham Pakistani Report". This launch took place in the Council Chamber of Birmingham City Council to a multi-ethnic audience on 20th June 2023, which I, as Chair of The Lunar Society, was asked to speak at, amongst other City dignitaries.

It is to be noted that not all WPs are as active as each-other. In keeping with the above point made about participation of both EBT and non-EBT members in the work of The Lunar Society, the same request is being made, for such help to be given through the WP system, building a sense of co-operation and unity of purpose.

As can be seen The Lunar Society has an active and broad remit and participation, which is intended to allow as many members as possible to be informed and involved.

MEMBERSHIP

Despite the stated aims and intentions in the Business Plan (2021 – 2024), Membership remains relatively static at about 178 members. The Membership model of The Lunar Society is not sustainable for much longer if membership does not increase significantly. In order to maximise profits and raise the profile of The Lunar Society, there is the need for some high-profile Annual events that will improve the income of the society as well as advertise the nature of The Lunar Society to potential members in society. Plans are now well advanced for an Annual Dinner, currently being planned for the 22nd September 2023

THE LUNAR SOCIETY as a CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (CIO)

As previous, membership numbers are a topic that was discussed as part of the Business Plan, previously, and an increase in this figure is a target to achieve. This, however, indicates that, as an organisation, The Lunar Society will have to move away from the 'Membership' model of funding, and improve its income by also establishing itself further as a Charitable organisation with Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Status. This will improve its future stability as well as its ability to compete for relevant bids for funds from organisations such as The National Lottery Fund (NLHF), the Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC), as well as The Hibbert Trust (HT) and others. Bids to the above organisations have already been significantly successful and are underpinning a lot of the activities currently being undertaken. CIOs provide a means for Charities to incorporate and gain the benefits currently available to companies, without the burden of dual regulation by both the Charity Commission and Companies House. A CIO is a legal entity and can enter into contracts in its own right.

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Lunar Society's progression to CIO Status is now nearly complete, together with the production of a new Constitution. This is not largely different from the previous one of 2016/2017 and has now been tabled at this meeting for adoption by this Annual General Meeting. It has had to be modified from the previous one and re-written in order to satisfy the requirements of the Application for CIO Status

The EBT had been kindly introduced to, and guided through this topic, by Frances Anderson, a previous Trustee. Through her services, the EBT was introduced to and further advised by Shivaji Shiva and Chloe Price of Veale Wasbrough Vizard (VWV), whose advice we are very grateful for, on a pro bono arrangement. Joanne Horton, Director, and I, as Chair, have been working closely with Shivaji Shiva and Chloe Price, with regular meetings as time allowed, the latest one being today 26th June 2023.

It had been planned that The Lunar Society would have been at the 'approval' stage well ahead of the AGM. Reference to the Chair's Report from last year's AGM, reports on the possible calling of an Extraordinary General Meeting to approve the Draft Constitution and CIO Application. Time constraints and calendar slippages, however, have resulted in an eclipse of these events, with the present AGM being an opportune time to launch the Draft Constitution and CIO Application for Approval at this Meeting.

GIFT AID

Gift Aid has continued to be claimed, with the help of Stuart Guy (SG). This has further helped the funds of The Lunar Society, as per the Hon. Treasurer's Statement.

THE LUNAR SOCIETY PROMOTIONAL BOOKLET

Throughout the last year and sometime before, Peter Mayer and I have been working on collating information intended to be used in the production of a Booklet that can be further used to advertise The Lunar Society to interested members and potential applicants. The booklet will take shape in A5 landscape pictorial format and will comprise of three main sections. These are (a) the Past History of The Lunar Society, dealing with its 18th Century roots, (b) the Present-day section from 1991 to date and (c) a Future section that looks ahead to the forthcoming plans for The Lunar Society. Section (a) has been kindly penned by Chris Rice, while sections (b) and (c) have been written by me. Significant interviews of surviving members of The Lunar Society since 1991, and research of older documents and papers since 1991, have been undertaken collaboratively by Peter Mayer and me, while overall editorial control has been Peter Mayer's domain. Irene de Boo has been a 'critical friend' commenting on various parts of the prospective publication to make it more accessible. Other relevant sections will be included. The publication is nearing completion in its draft form, and a Mock-Up Front/Back Cover can be viewed as part of this report. Peter Mayer and I will be having discussions with the designer/printer of the booklet to conclude on pagination and production schedules. Final publication will be in December 2023 or January 2024, this depending on the work schedule that the designer/printer currently has. The production of this booklet has been kindly supported by a grant made available through the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

ACTIVITIES OF, AND INVOLVING, THE LUNAR SOCIETY

The Lunar Society thrives on the activities that are organised to achieve the aim to 'stimulate ideas, broaden debate and catalyse action – heritage for the future'. Since the last Annual General Meeting, there have been no less than twenty-four (24) activities, which have been organised by The Lunar Society or where my participation as Chair of The Lunar Society was required. Some have been by Zoom (Z); however, many have been hybrid (H) events (Zoom and in-person) or in-person (P).

The following is a summarised list of these activities, with a short commentary. Further details can be obtained by reference to 'Chair's Matters' in the relevant minutes following the event.

- On the 7th September 2022, The Lunar Society held a very successful Networking event at Winterbourne House and Garden, B15 2RT. This was an evening event, when luckily, the rain held off just long enough to allow the event to happen within the Terrace and Garden at Winterbourne. (P)

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- On the evening of 8th September, on behalf of The Lunar Society, the Chair attended a Launch Event of 'The Soho House Mural Project: 300 years of Birmingham Re-Imagined', held at Soho House Museum, B18 5LB. This is a 'Creative City Project', which had been generously funded by Birmingham City Council. It is a joint venture by the Birmingham Race Impact Group (BRIG), whose Chair is Ranjit Sondhi, and The Lunar Society. Unfortunately, this event coincided with the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. (P)
- On the morning of Sunday 11th September, again, on behalf of The Lunar Society, the Chair attended a combined Memorial Service for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and a Service of Thanksgiving on the occasion of the 165th Anniversary of Singers Hill Synagogue, B1 1HL. (P)
- On the 4th October 2022, the Sir Adrian Cadbury Lecture took place at Aston University. After an initial Welcome by Professor Aleks Subic, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of Aston University, the Keynote Speaker was HRH Sir Dr Clyde Rivers, who is a World Civility Leader and owes his royal title as a King in Ghana (HRH Okogyeman Obremponnsu Kobina Amissah I). Dr Rivers set the tone of the evening with a fascinating talk entitled 'Beyond ESG', which discussed the need to focus on the individual people – both inside and outside an organisation. This talk was followed by a lively and strong panel discussion, at which questions were taken. The presentation and discussion developed the topic of 'Beyond ESG', which it was concluded was 'RSI' – Resilience, Sustainability, and Inclusivity, away from the originally coined acronym ESG. (ESG = Environmental, Social Governance). (P)
- A second event took place at Aston University on the 26th October 2022 and was called 'Ways of Knowing and Being for a Better Future: Health Activism, Hair, Race, Beauty & Practical Wisdom'. This event was supported by a grant from the Hibbert Trust. The speakers at this event were, **Kariima Ali**, a PhD researcher at Roehampton University, **Dr Sabena Jameel**, an Associate Professor in Medical Professionalism and Academic Quality Lead at the University of Birmingham Medical School, **Davina Hawthorne** from De Montfort University, and **Max Kandhola** from Nottingham Trent University. The presentations were followed by a roundtable discussion chaired by Ms Charmaine Burton, Hon Secretary. The meeting was received with great aplomb (P).
- On Tuesday 29th November 2022, on behalf of The Lunar Society, the Chair attended the Quarterly Business Report Q3 of the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce (GBCC), held at Birmingham City University (BCU). This was chaired by Ms Henrietta Brealey, CEO at GBCC, who welcomed all attendees, as well as the speakers who each made a presentation. These were Ms Joanna Birch, Director of Innovation, Enterprise and Employability at BCU, and who has been instrumental in the setting up of newly opened STEAMhouse, Mr Raj Kandola, Head of Policy & Strategic Relationships at GBCC, who delivered the Q3 report, Mr Douglas Wright MBE DL, CEO of Wright Restaurants t/a McDonalds, who gave a riveting account of entrepreneurship, Ms Debbie Lewis, Regional Ecosystem Manager at Natwest Group, who made a short presentation of how Natwest can help start-ups, innovators and entrepreneurs with sourcing funding and obtain guidance in their early stages. (P).
- On Wednesday 7th December 2022, a long awaited and high-profile event entitled 'The Governance of Schools and the Birmingham Trojan Horse Affair; What's the Role for Communities?' was held. The Trojan Horse Affair had an informative and formative role on how schools, both in Birmingham and outside our city, are run as well as the greater reflections on wider society in general with reflections on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. The VIP discussion panel consisted of Professor Colin Diamond, who The Lunar Society has had pleasure hosting before, Prof John Holmwood and Rt Hon. Baroness Sayeeda Hussain Warsi. The attendees at this meeting were joined by members of The Hibbert Trust who were instrumental in helping set up this meeting. A round table discussion, which followed short presentations by Professors Diamond and Holmwood, informed the audience what effect the Trojan Horse Affair, or Scandal, as it is otherwise known, had had on the way how education had been approached with respect to societal norms. (P)
- Held between 9th December 2022 and 11th December 2022, The Lunar Society participated in the St. Mary's Christmas Tree Festival at St. Mary's Church, Handsworth, Birmingham. With Many Thanks to Dr Peter Mayer and his wife Rosie, as well as Mr Mark Purcell, Hon Treasurer, they on behalf of The Lunar Society prepared and decorated two Christmas trees, donated by Dr and Mrs Mayer.
- Human Rights Day was on 10th December 2022. While this date had been in The Lunar Society Calendar, there had not been any events specifically organised to highlight this. Human Rights Day commemorates the day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- The Lunar Society participated in an event entitled 'The Connected Heritage Network Celebration' on 13th December 2022, organised by LegacyWM and the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). The Chair, on behalf of The Lunar Society, presented an account of the Lunar Society Heritage Trail, for which funding had been received, and which had been organised, restructured, and delivered by Chris Rice. The Lunar Society Heritage Trail was applauded and well received by other attendees and was mirrored by similar charities that had attracted NHLF funding and were supported by the Birmingham Voluntary Services Council (BVSC). (P)
- 'Levelling Up in the Theatre Industry – A Birmingham Rep Perspective' on 18th January 2023. The Executive Director of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre (The Rep), Rachael Thomas, presented a discussion about the Rep and the current activities that are happening intended to 'level up', ethnically, culturally, and socially in the theatre industry. (Z)
- HyDEX Regional Policy and Innovation Summit held at Toyota Manufacturing Plant, Derby on 26th January 2023. This was a whole day (0930 – 1600) event which the Chair attended with Mr David Dundas and Dr Kevin Kendall, to represent the Climate Change Working Party of The Lunar Society. (P)
- Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) Quarterly Business Report Q4 meeting at the Curzon Building BCU on 7th February 2023. The Chair attended this Morning Meeting, chaired by Ms Henrietta Brealey, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of GBCC, and introduced by Ms Jo Birch, Innovation, Enterprise, Employability, and Business Engagement, STEAM house, BCU. The Quarterly Business Report Q4 was presented by Mr Raj Kandola, Head of Policy GBCC. Mr Kandola highlighted the current main Birmingham business concerns. After this, was a further presentation by Ms Shilpi Akbar, Head of Stakeholders and Communities at Balfour Beatty Vinci JV, who are building HS2. Finally, was a presentation by Mr Simon Evans, Head of Corporate Affairs and Marketing at Birmingham Airport. He described what steps Birmingham Airport are taking to decarbonise the Ground Operations. (P)
- 'The Lunar Society: Past Present and Future' – Presentation at Edgbaston Golf Club on Valentines Day 14th February 2023. The above was a presentation that the Chair gave to the (Birmingham) University Graduates' Club, after a long-standing invitation by its President, Mrs Margaret Hale. This presentation gave a broad outline of the 18th Century History of The Lunar Society and its current work. Of extreme interest and coincidence, also is that Edgbaston Golf Club is housed in the property that was previously known as Edgbaston Hall, the home of Dr William Withering FRS, a member of the original Lunar Society (P)
- 'Sir Humphry Davy (1778 – 1829): His Life, Letters and Notebooks'; a Zoom presentation on 22nd February 2023 by Dr Andrew Lacey PhD, Senior Research Associate in the Department of English Literature and Creative Writing, Lancaster University, UK. This presentation, from a literary viewpoint, was given by Dr Andrew Lacey, PhD, Dr Lacey is currently working on the Davy Notebooks project, transcribing their contents with the help of many volunteers. Sir Humphry Davy is a significant figure in both the history of science and literary history. He corresponded with many members of the original Lunar Society including James Watt and Erasmus Darwin. (Z)
- 2023 Boulton and Watt Lecture: 'What is the right technology to deliver Net Zero' at the University of Birmingham on 15th March 2023 by Prof Martin Freer. Professor Freer has many appointments and is based at the University of Birmingham (UoB). He is a Nuclear Physicist by training and one of his main appointments is now as Director of the Midlands-based Energy Research Accelerator (ERA). He gave a very well received presentation about various methods of non-fossil fuel energy production (P)
- 'Women of Excellent Understanding: The Wives and Daughters of the Lunar Society' at Wolfson Centre, The Library of Birmingham on 18th March 2023. This presentation was given by Dr Kate Croft, PhD, who is a Visiting Lecturer in West Midlands History at The University of Birmingham. She continues to research social and gender history in the 18th Century West Midlands. This talk looked at some of the Lunar wives and daughters to consider the role that the Lunar women played in the lives, businesses, scientific investigation, and philosophical thought of their husbands/fathers. (P)
- 'How Precision Technology Accelerator (PHTA) can help Entrepreneurs in the Midlands' at The Exchange on 29th March 2023. Prof Gino Martini. The PHTA is part of a development of the Birmingham Health Innovation Campus (BHIC) which will be the largest life sciences cluster in the Midlands region. Prof Gino (Luigi) Martini talked about the importance of innovation and collaboration, intending to attract entrepreneurs, or clinicians or academics with the aim of fostering new research and/or social enterprise. Prof Martini has a significant background in all these fields. (H).

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- 'Arts in Society Event: The Queen Elizabeth II' Platinum Jubilee Sari Project'; a Zoom presentation on 26th April 2023 by Anne Marie Howat of the Arts University, Bournemouth. She presented very well on the topic of arts in society and issues of integrity and cultural appropriation. She and student designers worked with the British Asian Charity, Nutkhut, and designer Paul Costelloe to create the Indian wedding saris, banners and puppet costumes featured in the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee People's pageant. (Z)
- 'Olaudah Equiano – The Interesting Man behind the Narrative' at Wolfson Centre, The Library of Birmingham on 29th April 2023, presented by Clare Weston. Olaudah Equiano (c.1745 – 1797) published the first edition of his book 'The Interesting Narrative' in 1789. In this book he described one individual's journey from slavery to freedom, and significantly raised the awareness of the cruel and inhuman practices of the slave trade, which was very much an accepted norm in those times. The work towards abolition of the slave trade in the United Kingdom was further spearheaded by William Wilberforce, whose standing in society helped to bring about the change that eventually led to the abolition of slavery by Act of Parliament. Clare Weston presented this topic with much aplomb to a limited audience because of seating capacity. (P)
- 'Matthew Boulton's Soho Mint: 18th Century Coins for the World' on 18th May 2023 by Dr Sue Tungate at the Birmingham Museum Collection Centre. This event was organised and led by Irene de Boo. Speaker, Dr Sue Tungate, had completed her PhD on the 'Coins, medals, and tokens of Matthew Boulton's mints'. After the presentation the attendees were allowed to handle, with appropriate precautions, a selection of the coins that form part of the numismatic collection of the Birmingham Museum Trust. This was a very exciting event, which has further evidenced part of the important heritage of The Lunar Society. (P)
- 'Birmingham's Past, Present and Future Entrepreneurs' on 31st May 2023 at Winterbourne House and Gardens. This event was hosted as a networking event. The two speakers were Prof Monder Ram, Director of the Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship (CREME) at Aston University and Mr Chris Rice, Curator, and historic buildings expert, formerly Head of Heritage Services for Birmingham Museums. Presentations were made by Monder Ram and Chris Rice, Monder Ram emphasised the nature of Entrepreneurship in Birmingham. Chris Rice presented on the entrepreneurship that was undertaken and characterised by the original Lunar Men, and how that helped set up Birmingham as it is today. (H)
- 'Is Poverty a Myth' on 19th June 2023, held at free@last Nechells. This presentation was preceded by a guided tour by some of the young workers at the free@last centre. Those who participated in the guided tours found out about the facilities offered to attendees at this centre to help them from basic cooking techniques to entrepreneurship and setting up their own business, besides mentorship, advice, and guidance through life's many problems in such a deprived area such as Nechells. John Street, the speaker, is the Director of the charity organisation free@last which provides opportunities, activities, as well as mentoring and support for children and young people in Nechells, and to further their interests by working with their families, other agencies, and the community as a whole. (H)
- 'Birmingham Pakistani Report' on 20th June 2023; presented on the Council Chamber at Birmingham Council House. The Chair was honoured to have been invited to the important event of the Launch of this report. It is the first one of its kind as a 'current state' document regarding the overall experience of the Pakistani population, which constitutes the largest ethnic minority population (about 17% - nearly 200,000) in Birmingham. The Chair was invited to represent The Lunar Society and address the collected audience of about 100 participants including The Lord Mayor and the Leader of Birmingham City Council. Both of whom addressed the audience also. In the Chair's opinion, he believes that this report breaks new ground and is a basis for serious discussion between members of the Pakistani community itself as well as with other agencies and organisations outside that. (P)
- 'The Lunar Society Social and Networking Event – Itihaas on 17th May 2022.' This very successful event was the only event in which a speaker was not invited. It was an event that allowed for members (and non-members) to meet the EBT over a splendid meal at Itihaas, a superlative Indian restaurant in the City Centre of Birmingham. (P)

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I do not apologise for this lengthy account. It is not meant as a 'knock by knock' account of the past year within The Lunar Society. It, however, indicates the extremely full level of activity that The Lunar Society has been carrying out and involved in. It should reflect a **celebration** of the organisation that has revived and is still doing so, since the Covid Pandemic, although the latter is certainly not the only reason. Despite this lengthy account, it is not to be forgotten that many members of The Lunar Society and EBT have undertaken various roles to have helped to maintain the running and the standards that are so appropriate.

As I come to the end of my term as Chair (and previous Vice Chair), I can only look back and be happy with what we have achieved collectively, producing a successful working model of The Lunar Society, punching above its weight, and making significant impact. I shall not be taken over by a sense of triumphalism, as there are issues that I could have dealt with in a better fashion. I also recognise that the work of The Lunar Society is, and has to be, by its very nature, a collective effort, not so much a 'top-down' approach but a 'bottom-up' one!

I feel very humbled by having had the opportunity to serve the EBT and the members of The Lunar Society and am very grateful for having been given the opportunity to do so. I shall continue as Immediate Past Chair in the EBT and keep on serving as long as the Constitution allows. I shall follow developments keenly and wish the next Chair all possible success, as they begin their term, looking after The Lunar Society for future generations.

I am proud to have been the Chair to such an outstanding group of people. I present this report to you.

"Stimulate ideas, Broaden Debate, Catalyse Action – Heritage for the Future".

Financial Review

Like many organisations, the Lunar Society has found this to be challenging financial year but has continued to look forward to providing a sustainable future.

The Lunar Society held live and hybrid events this year attracting over 645 attendees in person and 77 online (compared to 535 attendees last year (an increase of 187). These events resulted in ticket sales of £1,938. In addition, recordings of the events are also being charged for if required.

The Annual Dinner did not take place this year which resulted in loss of income but is taking place on 22 September 2023.

The Lunar Society created a donation link for events and its website, and this has proven successful with donations being made of £2,177.94.

Subscription levels remained resilient throughout the year. Current Lunar Society membership stands at 183, the majority being Fellows ninety-seven (97) which show a slow decline. There are six (6) Overseas members, remaining static. While there has been a rise in student members, four (4), the overall number has increased slightly, compared to last year's figures. Corporate membership has increased slightly (from 5 to 6), as has Associate (29 to 30), Joint (11 to 19), while Honorary memberships have remained static.

Following the work carried out by EBT and the Secretariat contacting members to chase gift aid forms the Society were successful in applying for and receiving £7,738.90. There are still a number of gift aid forms outstanding and this work continues. Our express thanks go to Stuart Guy, who has compiled and applied for this funding,

Finally, during the year the Lunar Society were successful in being awarded 2 grants which have had a positive impact on future finances.

- Birmingham Voluntary Sector Council (BVSC grant) the final £1,000 was received upon completion of the project. The BVSC grant is for a Heritage Trail around Ladywood.
- The Hibbert Trust (£,3000). The Hibbert Trust monies contributed to our Black History Month event which took place in October 2022.
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund (£89,000). The initial payment of £44,500 has been received and the second instalment of £35,600 was received in April 2023. The final payment of £8,900 is expected first quarter 2024. There is also a £1,000 donation to be made. The National Lottery Heritage Fund is for the Lunar Society Booklet, walking trails around Handsworth during Black History month and beyond, Dinner and speaker during the Commonwealth Games, Soho house mural, pop up exhibition and project films. This work will be undertaken with Legacy West Midlands. The Lunar Society have received this money into its account and CS/DLB will be signed signatories for authorisation of any spend.

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Due to The Lunar Society's charitable status, it has now, in the past year, become possible to apply for the 'back payment' of Gift Aid from HMRC on all donations to the Society over the previous four years, with the respective member's knowledge, permission and signature. This work was highlighted as part of the Business Plan and has been facilitated with the significant help of Stuart Guy. This job is not yet complete, as it has been allotted to all the EBT members to contact the relevant members and discuss this option with them individually, as the option to claim Gift Aid remains the member's own decision and theirs alone. This approach has, however, already netted a significant extra income for The Lunar Society.

Finally, during the year the Lunar Society were successful in being awarded 2 grants which have had a positive impact on future finances.

- Birmingham Voluntary Sector Council (BVSC grant) of £5,000. £4,000 has been received. The BVSC grant is for a Heritage Trail around Ladywood.
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund (£89,000). The initial payment of £44,500 has been received. Further payments of £35,600 (expected first quarter 2023) and £8,900 (expected first quarter 2024) are due. There is also a £1,000 donation to be made. The National Lottery Heritage Fund is for the Lunar Society Booklet, walking trails around Handsworth during Black History month and beyond, Dinner and speaker during the Commonwealth Games, Soho house mural, pop up exhibition and project films. This work will be undertaken with Legacy West Midlands. The Lunar Society have received this money into its account and CS/DLB will be signed signatories for authorisation of any spend.

In August 2022 there was a change to the delivery of the Secretariat Services. David Clarke Associates stepped down and Dr Joanne Horton (Director of Operations) and Wendy Meakin (Administrator) were employed, on a freelance basis, to take over. As part of this change the Society invested in its own telephone system and IT systems which incurred initial one-off costs. There have also been some additional costs for website changes and reviews.

Current free reserves at the year-end amount to £1,841. The policy agreed by Trustees is to hold sufficient reserves to cover a potential decline in subscriptions of around £4,000 (being around 20% of membership fees). Reserves held over and above the agreed policy will be invested in future years in the activities of the Charity and in making its income streams sustainable for the future.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The Lunar Society is an unincorporated association of its members and was registered as a charity on 19 September 2017. It is governed by its Constitution adopted on 19 July 2016 and subsequently amended on 7 August 2017.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements are shown in the legal and administrative information.

P Borg-Bartolo

C Stone

D LaBassiere

M Purcell

S Guy

C S Burton

D Dundas

T Swani

A Ali

A Taylor (Appointed 26 July 2022)

Co-opted trustees

P Mayer

J Rainford

J Gaytten

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

New Trustees are appointed by invitation to join the Board following their election at The Annual General Meeting given that they have the necessary skills and experience to contribute to the Society's activities and to be able to discharge their obligations as Trustees.

The Trustees delegate the day to day running and administration of the Charity to the Secretariat. David Clarke Associates provided this service until August 2021. A new Secretariat was recruited (in line with the Business Plan) in August 2021 of Dr Joanne Horton (Director of Operations) and Wendy Meakin (Administrator). Both individuals are employed on a freelance basis. They are responsible for the management of events along with marketing, public relations, secretarial and administration duties.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Peter Borg-Bartolo

P Borg-Bartolo

Trustee

Date: 27th July 2023

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE LUNAR SOCIETY

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Lunar Society (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.


Thomas & Young Limited

Carleton House
266-268 Stratford Road
Shirley
Solihull
B90 3AD

Dated: 28/7/23

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations, grants & memberships	3	27,252	6,000	33,252	20,130	50,500	70,630
Charitable activities	4	1,876	-	1,876	282	-	282
Total income		<u>29,128</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>35,128</u>	<u>20,412</u>	<u>50,500</u>	<u>70,912</u>
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	29,746	47,406	77,152	29,491	-	29,491
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/							
Net movement in funds		(618)	(41,406)	(42,024)	(9,079)	50,500	41,421
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		2,459	50,500	52,959	11,538	-	11,538
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		<u>1,841</u>	<u>9,094</u>	<u>10,935</u>	<u>2,459</u>	<u>50,500</u>	<u>52,959</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	9		3,000		3,000
Current assets					
Debtors	10	187		861	
Cash at bank and in hand		13,913		56,091	
		<u>14,100</u>		<u>56,952</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(6,165)</u>		<u>(6,993)</u>	
Net current assets			7,935		49,959
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>10,935</u>		<u>52,959</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	13		9,094		50,500
Unrestricted funds			1,841		2,459
			<u>10,935</u>		<u>52,959</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 18th July 2023

Peter Borg-Bartolo
 P Borg-Bartolo
 Trustee

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Lunar Society is an unincorporated association, governed by its constitution adopted on 19 July 2016 and subsequently amended on 7 August 2017.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Irrecoverable VAT is allocated to the expense heading to which it relates in accordance with standard accounting practice.

1.6 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/ (expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.9 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3	Donations, grants & memberships	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		Total		Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		Total	
		2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	Grants receivable	-	-	6,000	6,000	6,000	2,774	50,500	50,500	53,274			
	Membership fees, donations and gift aid	27,252	-	-	27,252	27,252	17,356	-	-	17,356			

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

4 Charitable activities

	Grants received 2023 £	Grants received 2022 £
Meetings and events	1,876	282

5 Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Projects, meetings and events	53,270	265
Management and administration	22,616	28,002
Governance	1,266	1,224
	77,152	29,491
	77,152	29,491
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	29,746	29,491
Restricted funds	47,406	-
	77,152	29,491

6 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

7 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Total	-	-

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

8 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

9 Fixed asset investments

	Social investment £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2022 & 31 March 2023	3,000
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2023	3,000
At 31 March 2022	3,000
Investments relate to the Aston Reinvestment Trust (ART), made in 2014 and repayable 90 days after request.	

10 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	-	674
Prepayments and accrued income	187	187
	<u>187</u>	<u>861</u>

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income	12	2,000	4,000
Accruals and deferred income		4,165	2,993
		<u>6,165</u>	<u>6,993</u>

12 Deferred income

	2023 £	2022 £
Arising from deferred restricted grants	<u>2,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

THE LUNAR SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

12	Deferred income	(Continued)	
		2023 £	2022 £
	Deferred income is included within:		
	Current liabilities	2,000	4,000
	Movements in the year:		
	Deferred income at 1 April 2022	4,000	6,000
	Released from previous periods	(2,000)	(2,000)
	Deferred income at 31 March 2023	2,000	4,000

13 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds		Movement in funds		
	Incoming resources £	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
National Heritage Lottery	44,500	44,500	-	(35,406)	9,094
Birmingham Voluntary Services Council	4,000	4,000	-	(4,000)	-
Cadbury	2,000	2,000	2,000	(4,000)	-
Hibbert Trust	-	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
	50,500	50,500	5,000	(46,406)	9,094

14	Analysis of net assets between funds					
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	
	£	£	£	£	£	
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:						
Investments	3,000	-	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Current assets/(liabilities)	(1,159)	9,094	7,935	(541)	49,959	
	<u>1,841</u>	<u>9,094</u>	<u>10,935</u>	<u>2,459</u>	<u>52,959</u>	

15 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).