

Sutton African & Caribbean Cultural Organisation

Receipts and Payments Accounts

31 March 2024

Sutton African & Caribbean Cultural Organisation
Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Reference and administrative details

Charity number 1182079

Registered Address and Operational Address

21 Alexander Gardens
Stanley Road
Carshalton
Surrey
SM5 4LJ

Bank

Metro Bank
83 - 87 High Street
Sutton
SM1 1JF

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Cleo Douglas - Chair from February 2021 Appointed May 2019
Grace Abamba – Appointed November 2021
Annisha Taylor – Appointed November 2021
Gerald Samuel – Appointed September 2023
Veronica Fritzson -retired September 2023

Grace Smith - Honorary Treasurer November 2021

Independent Examiner

678 Consult Limited
Chartered Accountants
100 Lincoln Road
Erith, Kent
DA8 2DT

Sutton African & Caribbean Cultural Organisation
Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Reference and administrative information set out on page 2 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and constitution.

GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

Sutton African & Caribbean Cultural Organisation (SACCO)

Sutton African & Caribbean Cultural Organisation (SACCO) is a charitable organisation established in 2019, formerly known as Sutton Black History Group. Operating as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), SACCO is guided by a constitution and dedicated to celebrating African and Caribbean heritage while supporting community well-being.

Core Activities and Initiatives

1. Educational Activities

SACCO delivers educational programs and activities designed to raise awareness and promote understanding of African and Caribbean heritage. These include workshops, lectures, and other informative events.

2. Cultural Events

SACCO organises vibrant cultural events, including festivals, performances, and exhibitions, that celebrate the rich traditions and heritage of African and Caribbean communities.

3. Group Meetings

The organisation facilitates group meetings that foster community connections. These gatherings serve as forums for discussion, support groups, and planning sessions for various community projects.

4. Focus on Children and Young People

SACCO engages young people through programs and activities that promote cultural awareness and encourage active participation in community initiatives.

5. Addressing Older People's Social Isolation

SACCO recognises and addresses social isolation among seniors by organising events and activities that help them connect with peers and the wider community.

6. Culturally Appropriate Activities

The organisation offers activities designed to resonate with African and Caribbean communities, ensuring inclusivity and cultural relevance.

7. Addressing Health Disadvantages

SACCO is committed to addressing health disparities affecting African and Caribbean communities. This includes providing health education, advocacy, and support to improve community well-being.

Mission and Commitment

SACCO is dedicated to celebrating and promoting African and Caribbean heritage while addressing social challenges and fostering community cohesion. Through its diverse activities and initiatives, SACCO aims to enhance education, cultural appreciation, and the overall quality of life for its members.

Sutton African & Caribbean Cultural Organisation
Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2024

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

SACCO's charitable objectives are centred around community development, social welfare, elimination of discrimination, and promoting inclusivity. The organisation confirms compliance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

SACCO Objectives and Achievements for 2023–2024

Objectives for 2023–2024:

SACCO set ambitious goals for the year, focusing on:

1. **Improving Governance** – Strengthening organizational structure and processes.
2. **Raising Awareness** – Promoting SACCO's mission and activities to a wider audience.
3. **Recruiting New Expertise** – Bringing in skilled individuals to enhance project delivery.
4. **Enhancing Communication** – Streamlining internal and external communication channels.
5. **Applying for Core Funding** – Securing financial resources to sustain operations.
6. **Supporting Those Affected by COVID-19** – Continuing to aid recovery efforts.
7. **Addressing the Cost-of-Living Crisis** – Providing targeted support to the community.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 19th April 2024 to reflect on 2023

Awards

SACCO Wins Sutton Community Award for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion



SACCO was honoured to be nominated for the Sutton Community Awards in the category of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. We are incredibly proud to have won this prestigious award, which stands as a testament to the hard work and dedication SACCO commits to fostering inclusivity and supporting the community. This recognition reflects our ongoing efforts to celebrate diversity and promote equality across Sutton.

Key Projects and Activities:

1. Community Programs

- **Friendship Friday:** Regular social gatherings for the over-50s to reduce isolation and foster connections.
- **Building Resilience (Merton Giving Fund):** Initiatives aimed at enhancing community well-being. Offering physical activities tailored for senior citizens to promote fitness and social interaction in collaboration with SUB3 Fitness
- **Pickleball Introduction:** Promoting health and activity through this emerging sport.
- **Allotment Project:** Encouraging sustainable living and mental well-being through gardening which also allowed us to tackle seniors being isolated and lonely fostering a great sense of community and forging new friendships.

2. Celebrations and Events

- **Windrush Family Fun Day:** A vibrant, intergenerational event celebrating the contributions of the Windrush generation.
- **Black History Month Events:** A series of activities honouring African and Caribbean heritage.

3. Outreach and Partnerships

- **Wellbeing Food Boxes:** Continued distribution to support community health.
- **Kaleidoscope Magazine:** Increased readership through print and digital editions, receiving positive feedback.
- **Collaborations:** Worked with Sutton Housing Partnership, Royal Society of Arts, Community Action Sutton, Place at the Table, ASKI and the NHS to strengthen community impact.

4. Digital Presence

- Active engagement on social media platforms to broaden outreach and connect with the community.

Summary:

SACCO's accomplishments in 2023–2024 reflect its dedication to empowering the community through education, health, culture, and social support. By setting clear objectives and executing impactful projects, SACCO continues to foster equality, diversity, inclusivity, resilience, and well-being within the Sutton African and Caribbean community.

Achievements and Performance

- **Friendship Friday**



The group has continued to grow, primarily due to the efforts of our dedicated, paid project manager. Meetings are held biweekly, with each session featuring a variety of topics, activities, and trips carefully arranged by the project manager to keep the experience fresh and enjoyable. These gatherings also address the issue of isolation among our elders, providing them with opportunities to socialize, participate in engaging activities, and share a hot meal—often of African Caribbean origin—that fosters a sense of

community and belonging.

Sutton African & Caribbean Cultural Organisation
Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2024

- **Patron**



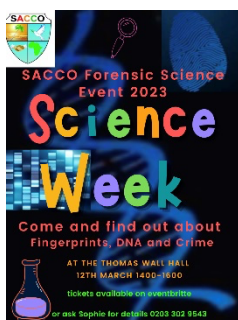
Patrick Hutchinson continues to serve as our Patron, providing unwavering support to the group. He has attended numerous events on behalf of SACCO and has attended our Friendship Friday sessions, where he takes the time to meet and connect with our elders. His presence and engagement are greatly appreciated and add a special touch to our gatherings.

- **Building Resilience - Merton Giving Fund**



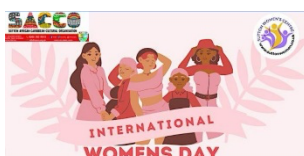
SACCO delivered a program of mixed-ability chair exercise classes in collaboration with SUB3 Fitness. The sessions were held in person and were designed to promote physical health, social interaction, and a sense of community among seniors in Merton. The classes were well-attended, providing participants with an opportunity to meet new people, stay active, and enjoy an outing. Recognising the continued demand for such initiatives, SACCO aims to deliver similar classes in the future to support the well-being of the local senior community

- **British Science Week – Forensic Science Workshop**



As part of British Science Week, SACCO hosted an engaging forensic science workshop. Participants explored the fascinating world of fingerprints, DNA, and crime investigation. The hands-on session allowed attendees to collect fingerprint and DNA samples, gaining insight into their critical roles in criminal detection and ancestry tracing. The workshop provided an educational and interactive experience, sparking interest in forensic science and its real-world applications.

- **International Womens Day Celebration**



SACCO partnered with Sutton Women's Centre to host an inspiring and vibrant event in honour of International Women's Day. Members of the community gathered to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women everywhere in a supportive and joyous atmosphere. The evening featured a captivating performance by a Steel Drum Band, adding a lively and cultural touch to the festivities. The celebration was a memorable tribute to women, their accomplishments, and their impact, reflecting SACCO's commitment to inclusivity, empowerment, and community building.

- **Support for Sutton Inequalities Initiatives**



SACCO has actively supported the London Borough of Sutton's inequalities initiatives by contributing to food hubs and new food pantries across local housing estates, including Roundshaw, Benhill, St. Helier, and Shanklin. To meet the diverse needs of the community, culturally appropriate dry food items have been added to the pantries, particularly catering to African and Caribbean families. This initiative underscores SACCO's commitment to fostering inclusivity and addressing food insecurity in the local area.



Self-Management UK and SACCO collaborated to support mental well-being within the community. Volunteers from the community were trained to become self-management course tutors for those with mental ill health in the black and BAME community within Sutton once trained they went on to deliver 4 self-management courses. This

initiative provided a safe and inclusive environment where individuals could connect with others and gain valuable tools for navigating life's challenges to support those attending to build their knowledge, skills and confidence in managing their mental ill-health.

This partnership reflects SACCO's dedication to holistic well-being, empowering individuals to take charge of their mental health while fostering community support and resilience.

- **Windrush Day 2023 – 75th Anniversary Celebrations**



To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Empire Windrush's arrival in the UK, SACCO hosted a series of community events in Sutton from June 22nd to 24th, celebrating the contributions and achievements of the Windrush generation and their descendants.

1. **June 22nd – Black-Owned Business Market**

The St. Nicholas Centre in Sutton Shopping Centre became a hub for African and Caribbean businesses, providing a platform to showcase and sell their goods. This all-day market highlighted the entrepreneurial spirit and cultural richness of the community.

2. **June 23rd – Friendship Friday Group Celebration**

A special event for the over-50s featured storytelling, games, and traditional food. It provided a space for members of the Windrush generation to reminisce, share their stories, and celebrate their contributions, particularly in healthcare and community building.

3. **June 24th – Free Community Event**

The celebrations concluded with a vibrant intergenerational day that included a dominoes tournament, bouncy castle, and insightful talks about the Windrush experience. This event brought together people of all ages to honour the legacy and heritage of the Windrush generation.

The three-day celebration was a resounding success, fostering community spirit, cultural pride, and intergenerational understanding.

- **Black History Month**



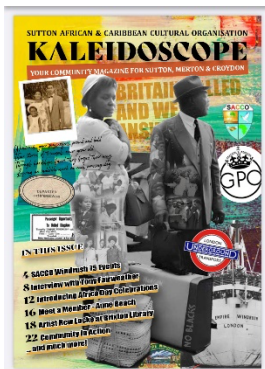
The theme for Black History Month 2023 was “Before Windrush,” marking the 75th anniversary of the Empire Windrush’s arrival in the UK. SACCO hosted a variety of events throughout the month, designed to engage and educate all age groups. The initiative was a resounding success, with all events fully booked and receiving widespread acclaim for their relevance and impact.

- **Wellbeing Food Boxes**



SACCO has continued its efforts to support community well-being by providing food boxes and distributing non-perishable food items. These contributions have been crucial in supplying Sutton Housing Partnership estates' food hubs, ensuring that residents have access to essential resources. This ongoing initiative reflects SACCO's commitment to addressing food security and supporting local communities

- **Kaleidoscope Magazine**



Kaleidoscope Magazine has achieved increased readership through its distribution in both digital and hard copy formats. The magazine has received numerous positive comments, with readers praising both its content and layout, highlighting its growing popularity and impact.

- **Allotment**



The Allotment: A New Venture for SACCO. The allotment project is a fresh initiative that offers participants the chance to connect with nature while developing practical skills and fostering social interactions. Participants quickly discovered that managing an allotment involves more than just planting seeds; it includes maintaining the ground and addressing daily challenges. Attendees have gained carpentry skills, transforming pallets

into raised beds and benches, demonstrating creativity and resourcefulness. The allotment has provided a space for members to converse, collaborate, and build meaningful connection. This initiative promotes teamwork and creates a sense of shared achievement as participants nurture their plants and improve the space. By combining education, skill-building, and community engagement, the allotment project highlights SACCO’s dedication to empowering its members while enhancing well-being and fostering sustainability. Fresh produce from the allotment has been distributed among members, encouraging healthy eating and showcasing the rewards of their hard work. The fruits of their labour were also enjoyed at a summer BBQ, bringing members together to celebrate their efforts and the success of the allotment.

- **Pickleball**



Many participants were unfamiliar with pickleball prior to attending SACCO's sessions. The program has been instrumental in raising awareness and sparking interest in the sport. Attendance numbers have steadily increased, reflecting the community's enthusiasm and demand for the activity. Due to its popularity, SACCO now delivers pickleball sessions at two different locations, ensuring broader access and convenience for participants. This initiative underscores SACCO's commitment to promoting physical well-being and introducing innovative activities that foster community engagement and healthy lifestyles.

Organisational Development and Future Planning

SACCO relies on a committed team of volunteers who play a crucial role in delivering events and initiatives. To ensure continued growth and sustainability, the organisation:

- **Volunteer Support:** Identifies and supports volunteers, encouraging them to take on governance roles or explore career aspirations.
- **Trustee Training:** Provides training for new Trustees to enhance governance capabilities and familiarise them with SACCO's internal IT systems.

Risk Management

The board of Trustees actively identifies and mitigates risks to safeguard SACCO's operations. Key initiatives include:

- **Governance and Finance Risks:** Addressed by recruiting Trustees with diverse expertise, including financial professionals.
- **Process Reviews:** Regular assessments of risk management processes, with ongoing monitoring to ensure organizational resilience.

Finance

For the year ended 31st March 2024 incoming resources were £63,848 (2023: £65,808) and resources expended were £76,993, (2023: £35,298), resulting in a deficit for the year of £13,145 (2023: £30,510). The deficit was the result of spending restricted funds brought forward from 2022/23.

Total funds at 31st March 2024 were £39,040 (2023: £52,185), of which £27,615 is held in restricted funds with £11,425 in unrestricted reserves. These unrestricted reserves represent just over 2 months running costs of the charity and are increasing slightly year on year.

We obtained a number of grants, the majority were project specific and restricted grants. We were successful in gaining funding during the year from London Community Fund to support the cost of living crisis and National Lottery to celebrate 75 years of Windrush.

We received grants from the following funders in 2023/24. This increased funding allowed us to provide a variety of projects relating to inclusion, inequalities and supporting the cost of living crisis over the last year. We want to thank our funders:-

- London Community Foundation to support Cost of Living Crisis

Sutton African & Caribbean Cultural Organisation
Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2024

- British Science Association - Science Week
- London Borough of Sutton Neighbourhood Fund - Black History Month
- Community Action Sutton
- National Lottery 75th Windrush Celebrations
- Sported England – Pickle Ball
- Postcode Lottery – Friendship Friday

We are also very appreciative the support from Sutton Housing Partnership, Place at The Table, and ASKI who we work closely with over the last year and donations we have received. We thank all for their generosity –two local churches, and local shops – Morrisons, Sainsbury, Tesco and private individuals who gave us fresh produce from the allotments.

The increase in funding, allows for the employment of a part-time project lead and project manager while maintaining part-time administrative support.

Future Work

SACCO is focused on:

1. Preparing for Accreditation: Enhancing standards and achieving formal recognition for its operations.
2. Expanding Friendship Friday: Growing this popular program to reduce social isolation among seniors.
3. Engaging in Partnerships and Conferences: Participating in initiatives related to mixed heritage, succession planning, and training to ensure the organisation's sustainability and relevance.

Summary

By prioritising organisational development, risk management, and future planning, SACCO is building a strong foundation for continued success. These efforts aim to enhance governance, expand community impact, and secure SACCO's long-term growth and sustainability.

Sutton African & Caribbean Cultural Organisation
Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

Year ended 31st March 2024

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
INCOME				
Donations		2,703	2,703	1,535
Grants	56,886		56,886	59,184
Fundraising/Sales		3,714	3,714	5,004
Membership Fees		545	545	85
Total Income	56,886	6,962	63,848	65,808
EXPENDITURE				
Fundraising		180	180	250
Trustee Expenses			-	72
Charitable Activities Costs	68,296		68,296	24,954
Administration	2,436	-	2,436	4,722
Telephone and Internet	986		986	709
Office costs	2,678		2,678	2,370
Training			-	319
Insurance		313	313	277
Independent Examination	1,648		1,648	1,625
Purchase of Equipment		456	456	-
Total Expenditure	74,396	2,597	76,993	35,297
Net Receipts	(17,510)	4,365	(13,145)	30,511
Cash funds at 1 April 2023	45,125	7,060	52,185	21,675
Cash funds at 31 March 2024	27,615	11,425	39,040	52,185

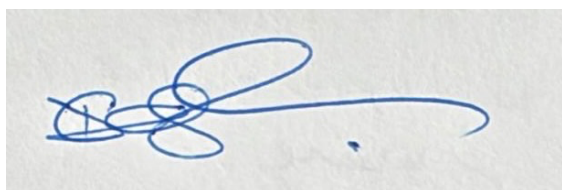
Sutton African & Caribbean Cultural Organisation
Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Statement of assets and liabilities

Year ended 31st March 2024

	2024	2023
	Total	Total
	£	£
Cash Funds		
Cash at bank and in hand	39,040	52,185
Cash funds		
Restricted funds	27,615	45,125
Unrestricted General Funds	11,425	7,060
Total Cash Funds	39,040	52,185

Approved by the trustees on 30th January 2025 and signed on their behalf by



Cleo Douglas - Chair

Sutton African & Caribbean Cultural Organisation
Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sutton African & Caribbean Cultural Organisation for the year ended 31 March 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sutton African & Caribbean Cultural Organisation (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 11 and 12.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Act;

or

(2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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 accounts to be reached.

Date: 30th January 2025



Ruth Kenekueyero
Member of the ICAEW
For and on behalf of:
678 Consult Limited
Chartered accountants
100 Lincoln Road
Erith
DA8 2DT