

Out Together

England & Wales · Charity number 1188461

Details

Other names FRIENDS OF DOROTHY, OutTogether

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2020-03-10

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

Contact

Address 19 Church Lane
Bardsey
Leeds
LS17 9DH

Phone 03333449017

Email Hello@outtogether.lgbt

Website www.OutTogether.lgbt

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY WORKING WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED ON THE GROUNDS OF THEIR AGE AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION (IN PARTICULAR, ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBT+) TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF SUCH PEOPLE AND ASSIST THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY, IN PARTICULAR BY:-PROVIDING A NETWORK GROUP THAT ENCOURAGES AND ENABLES MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE MORE EFFECTIVELY IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY (INCLUDING THE YOUNG LGBT+ COMMUNITY); AND -RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES AFFECTING ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBT+ GENERALLY AND IN RELATION TO THEIR SOCIAL EXCLUSION.

Activities: To promote social inclusion by working with people who are socially excluded on the grounds of their age and sexual orientation (in particular, elderly people who identify as LGBT plus) to relieve their needs and assist them to integrate into society, in particular by providing a networking group that encourages and enables members to participate more effectively in the wider community

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£82,765	£67,472	-	-
2023-12-31	£67,680	£66,253	-	-
2022-12-31	£63,327	£53,273	-	-
2021-12-31	£14,028	£13,178	-	-
2020-12-31	£6,190	£1,073	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Antony Ball		2022-08-18
Katie Robinson		2020-01-22
Thomas Porteus Mr		2025-10-15
Timothy Paul Gittins		2020-01-22

Out Together

England & Wales - Charity number 1188461

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **01/01/2024**

Period start date To **31/12/2024**

Period end date

Charity name: Out Together

Charity registration number: 1188461

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by working with people who are socially excluded on the grounds of their age and sexual orientation (in particular, elderly people who identify as LGBT+) to relieve their needs and assist them to integrate into society.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular social events, digital inclusion sessions, and befriending services.• Partnerships with local businesses and organisations to support LGBTQ+ seniors.• Fundraising events and grant applications to support ongoing activities.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	

Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Achievements and Performance – 2024</p> <p>During 2024, <i>Out Together</i> consolidated its position as a leading intergenerational LGBTQ+ charity in Yorkshire, overcoming barriers to strengthening community engagement, developing new partnerships, and improving long-term sustainability through fundraising, governance, and digital innovation. The trustees are pleased to report the following key achievements.</p>
		<p>Fundraising and Partnerships</p> <p>A £25,000 donation from the Mike Potter Estate and the support of the estate executors opened the opportunity to connect with the rural LGBTQ+ community in Yorkshire and potentially beyond, beginning with an Open Farm Day. The donation provided the essential investment to establish the charity's new communications system, built on Mailchimp. The upgrade has enabled more effective member engagement, improved data reporting, and a professionalised approach to communications management.</p> <p>The charity's third <i>All Out Together Ball</i> was a major success, raising £16,000 — double the previous year's total — with more than 220 guests in attendance. The event was sponsored by Weightmans, and Mach Recruitment, who also provided an additional £14,000 in funding to support the charity's growth and operations.</p> <p>Our <i>Partners in Pride</i> who supported the event included Evri, Squire Patton Boggs, PWC, Yorkshire Garden Centre Group, Walker Morris, and Leeds Pride, whose collective support significantly enhanced the charity's visibility and network across the region.</p>

		<p>Out Together also continued to pursue grant funding from multiple sources to diversify its income and secure sustainability for the years ahead.</p>
		<p>Operational Delivery</p> <p>Existing regional social hubs in Leeds and Huddersfield, continued to thrive, providing inclusive and welcoming spaces for social connection, wellbeing, and peer support. Plans to extend the model in 2025 to two new locations – Hebden Bridge and Bingley - were initiated.</p> <p><i>Club Out Together</i> ran regular networking meetings with the support of corporate partner hosts, while the Telefriending Service, relaunched in partnership with Sky’s Time To Care Team, provided one-to-one support for over ten members experiencing isolation.</p> <p>Attendance grew across regular activities including Sunday lunches, Thursday Playhouse events, and a variety of ad hoc events such as theatre visits, museum trips, local walks, and the Printworks Lunch Club. The year concluded with a Christmas party for over 70 members, supported by Gordons LLP, who generously donated hampers for attendees.</p> <p>While progress was made in understanding our impact, the absence of robust data collection systems limited our ability to capture detailed metrics. Administrative tasks, including managing subsidised meal bookings and member contributions, also added to the team’s workload. These needs would be addressed as part of a technology review for 2025.</p>
		<p>Digital Inclusion and Innovation</p> <p>One of the most significant barriers our community faces is the difficulty of acquiring and sustaining the digital skills essential for independence and social participation. Digital access and connectivity remained a major focus throughout 2024. With funding of £9,300 from Cognizant, the charity launched a weekly Digital Inclusion Programme to improve</p>

		<p>members' confidence and skills in using technology. The programme content was based on initial and ongoing surveys of members' needs. These regular surveys also recorded members improved confidence with digital tools.</p> <p>Five tablets were distributed or lent to members, and a six-week training course was delivered, later extended to maintain engagement and welcome new participants.</p> <p>Further support from Amazon (£500) enabled the purchase of additional equipment.</p>
		<h2 data-bbox="810 719 1326 763">Staffing and Volunteering</h2> <p data-bbox="810 808 1366 943">Volunteer engagement expanded significantly during the year, supported by new corporate volunteering partnerships with Sky, First Direct, and Amazon.</p> <p data-bbox="810 987 1353 1122">This transition has been highly successful, enabling the charity to deliver more targeted and relevant communications to its growing membership base.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1167 1382 1626">Ant Warren joined us initially as a volunteer to develop digital inclusion and then became employed part-time for two days per week. He played an instrumental role in delivering digital inclusion and technology support, as well as overseeing the rollout of the new Mailchimp-based communications system. This transition has markedly improved internal communications, provided the foundation for improved data collection and enabled the charity to deliver more targeted and relevant communications to its growing membership base.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1671 1366 1839">A dedicated Ball Fundraising Committee also played a vital role in the successful planning and delivery of the <i>2024 All Out Together Ball</i>, ensuring professional event management and maximising income generation.</p>
		<h2 data-bbox="810 1962 1214 2040">Governance and Strategic Development</h2>

		<p>The trustees continued to strengthen governance structures throughout the year. Key policies were reviewed and updated, including a revised Code of Conduct for Volunteers and refreshed document management procedures.</p> <p>With guidance from the Cranfield Trust, the charity began the process of developing the Trustee Board. Three new trustees – Sophie Linley, Perry Law and Sam Glenister-Batey – joined the board, each sharing our vision and bringing skills needed to develop future strategy. A formal Trustee induction session was held in September.</p> <p>In line with longer term goals, the board began developing leadership succession arrangements. The Chair, Tim Gittins, announced his intention to step down from the role in 2025, continuing as Treasurer to provide continuity in financial oversight during a transition to new leadership. This proactive approach ensures stability as the charity prepares for its next phase of growth.</p>
		<p>Financial Review and Reserves Policy</p>
		<p>Financial Overview</p> <p>During 2024, <i>Out Together</i> strengthened its financial position, achieving total income of £84,678 and expenditure of £69,385, resulting in a closing balance of approximately £35,000 (January 2025).</p> <p>Average monthly operating expenditure was between £4,500 and £5,000, reflecting controlled costs and strong budget management while expanding programmes and staffing.</p> <p>Key income sources included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The All Out Together Ball, which raised £16,000 (double the previous year's total);

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The £25,000 donation from the Mike Potter Estate, which funded the charity’s upgraded communications system based on Mailchimp; • A £14,000 sponsorship and donation from Mach Recruitment; • Contributions from corporate and community partners including Evri, Squire Patton Boggs, PWC, Yorkshire Garden Centre Group, Walker Morris, Leeds Pride, and Gordons LLP. <p>Expenditure was focused on charitable activities — including digital inclusion, community outreach, and member events — as well as investment in systems and staff to improve operational capacity and governance.</p>
		<h2>Reserves Policy</h2> <p>The trustees aim to maintain unrestricted reserves equivalent to approximately two to three months of core operating costs (around £10,000–£15,000) to ensure stability and continuity of services.</p> <p>At the year end, the unrestricted reserves exceeded the target minimum, allowing investment in long-term infrastructure improvements. All reserves are held in cash in the charity’s bank account, and there were no restricted funds at year end.</p>
		<h2>Going Concern</h2> <p>The trustees consider the charity to be in a sound financial position, with sufficient reserves and a strong pipeline of fundraising activity to sustain operations through 2025. There are no material uncertainties about the charity’s ability to continue as a going concern.</p>
		<h2>Summary</h2> <p>2024 marked a year of progress and consolidation for <i>Out Together</i>. With growing membership, thriving hubs, improved communications systems, and strengthened</p>

		<p>governance, the charity is well positioned to deliver greater impact, expand its reach, and continue its mission of creating intergenerational connection across the LGBTQ+ community in 2025 and beyond.</p> <p>2025 Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow fundraising events and expand Partners in Pride. • Strengthen grant applications for core funding. • Expand hub activities and Club Out Together events. • Double Telefriending clients and volunteers. • Broaden digital inclusion and social events. • Recruit and train more volunteers, expand staff roles as funding allows.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Trust deed
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees pursuant to Charity's governing document

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Out Together
Other name the charity uses	Friends of Dorothy (previous name)
Registered charity number	1188461
Charity's principal address	19 Church Lane, Bardsey, Leeds, LS17 9DH

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Perry Law	Co-Chair/trustee	From 17 October 2024 (Co-chair from July 2025)	Trustees pursuant to Charity's governing document
2	Sam Glenister-Baty	Trustee	From 17 October 2024	Trustees pursuant to Charity's governing document
3	Sophie Linley	Co-Chair/trustee	From 10 September 2024 (Co-chair from July 2025)	Trustees pursuant to Charity's governing document
4	Antony Ball	Trustee	From 18 August 2022	Trustees pursuant to Charity's governing document
5	Katie Robinson	Trustee	From 22 January 2020	Trustees pursuant to Charity's governing document
6	Timothy Paul Gittins	Treasurer/trustee	From 22 January 2020 (Chair until July 2025. Treasurer from July 2025)	Trustees pursuant to Charity's governing document
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>aBall</i>	
Full name(s)	Antony Ball	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	
Date	31/10/2025	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

OUT TOGETHER	No (if any) 1188461
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2024	To	Period end date 31/12/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
FUND RAISING EVENT	26,722	-	-	26,722	17,556
GRANTS AND DONATIONS	56,043	-	-	56,043	50,124
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	82,765	-	-	82,765	67,680
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	
Total receipts	82,765	-	-	82,765	67,680
A3 Payments					
Direct cost of charitable activities	17,088	-	-	17,088	18,679
Administration	1,976	-	-	1,976	5,616
Communications and PR	3,371	-	-	3,371	7,051
Consultancy	34,177	-	-	34,177	25,350
Costs of Fundraising event	10,860	-	-	10,860	9,557
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	67,472	-	-	67,472	66,253
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	
Total payments	67,472	-	-	67,472	66,253
Net of receipts/(payments)	15,293	-	-	15,293	1,427
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	
A6 Cash funds last year end	24,544	-	-	24,544	23,117
Cash funds this year end	39,837	-	-	39,837	24,544

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF BANK	39,838		-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	39,838	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Timothy Gittins	30/10/2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Out Together (formerly Friends of Dorothy)

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1188461

Set out on pages

CC16a

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

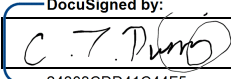
**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: 
DocuSigned by:
24303CDD41C44F5

Date: 29/10/2025

Name: Mr Charles Dunning ACA CTA

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Chartered Accountant and tax advisor.

Address:

32 Coronation Avenue,
Normanton,
WF6 2LW

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

None.

Out Together

England & Wales - Charity number 1188461

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1 st	January	2023		31 st	December	2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Out Together

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1188461

Charity's principal address

19 Church Lane	
Bardsey	
Leeds	
Postcode	LS17 9DH

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Tim Gittins	Chair Acting Treasurer	13/3/24 - 31/12/24	
2	Katie Robinson	Vice Chair		
3	Judith Firman	Treasurer	01/01/24 – 13/08/24	
4	Hannah Bithell			
5	Antony Ball	Secretary		
6	Sophie Linley		Appointed 10/09/24	
7	Sam Glenister-Batey		Appointed 10/09/24	
8	Perry Law		Appointed 10/09/24	
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable incorporated organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by board of trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by working with people who are socially excluded on the grounds of their age and sexual orientation (in particular, elderly people who identify as

LGBT+) to relieve the needs of such people and assist them to integrate into society, in particular by:

- (a) providing a local network group that encourages and enables members to interact more effectively with the wider community (including the young LGBT+ community); and
- (b) raising public awareness of the issues affecting elderly people who identify as LGBT+ generally and in relation to their social exclusion.”

1. Improve the ability, opportunity for and dignity of those disadvantaged on the basis of their identity
2. Develop a collaborative out-reach strategy, with other agencies where needed, that helps find and identify people who could otherwise be excluded
3. Build an organisation to offer them befriending, signposting to other relevant organisations, and an inclusive network group which welcomes, protects and safeguards them
4. Design and implement a social media and PR strategy to communicate effectively with members and to promote external awareness of Out Together, especially within the LGBT community, that will foster mutual support
5. Encourage members to mobilize their individual skills and work together to realise and develop their strengths, with a range of regular activities and events that will encourage members to keep well, have fun and stay connected
6. Implement a fundraising programme that will minimise the dependency on, and uncertainty of, external grants needed to support continuing operations

During the period the trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission’s public benefit guidance and have taken this into account when making a decision to which the guidance is relevant.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

All our activities are volunteer led and we encourage and support our membership to be involved in the works of the charity.

Section D Achievements and performance

Our Strategic Planning

We based our Plan for 2023 on strategic objectives we adopted in November 2022.

- Implement a fund-raising program that will minimise the dependency on, and uncertainty of, external grants needed to support continuing operations
- Develop and expand outreach and tele-friending programmes
- Establish inclusive social network groups and activities, both digitally and close to where people live
- Develop inter-generational links to encourage individuals to share and learn from life experiences
- Recruit corporate and individual partners and supporters to help promote and finance the charity
- Promote greater public awareness of the specific impacts that affect LGBT+ seniors more than their straight peers.
- Improve our marketing, PR and social media programmes to communicate separately and effectively with individual stakeholders and audiences

Key achievements were

Out Together rebranding

Section D

Achievements and performance

The great success of 2023 was the relaunch and renaming of the charity, resulting in a much higher profile based on greater inclusivity. At the relaunch we brought together representatives from diverse sectors of the community; it significantly boosted our profile and established new corporate and individual relationships, which strengthened over the year, from organisations wishing to work with us, and from individuals wanting to use their skills to help us achieve our goals.

Following the official charity name change to “OUT TOGETHER” in March, we began using our new logo, domain and email address across all our communications. This was a big step forward in breaking the links to the past.

The new branding gave us the confidence in April to bid for the ITV/Lottery *People’s Project Award* that could have given us up to £70K in funding. Although we didn’t win, as a runner up we were awarded £10k, and achieved significant visibility from a peak time TV appearance and increased social media support.

Our higher profile attracted LGBT+ groups from outside Leeds to contact us, which resulted in alliances with The Brunswick Centre in Huddersfield and with *Out in the Valley*, a social group in Calderdale. Several joint meetings of our members and these groups took place.

Relationship building

The success of the relaunch led to us founding

- Partners in Pride, for organisations sharing our values, aims and objectives; we gave several presentations to firms and their employees explaining our work and worked with others to help mark Pride and LGBT History Month. These included Wellington Place, Evri, Walker Morris, Weightmans, Leeds Law Society, Manchester Law Society
- Club Out Together, for younger LGBTQ+ professionals, to realise the potential for all generations of our community with skills, dedication and commitment to work together to create lasting change. Beginning in September 2023 we started a series of networking events (each hosted by different Partners in Pride) for individuals to discuss the challenges LGBTQ+ people face.

Income and fundraising

Total income was £67,800, (2022 £63,327) an increase of 7.0%

Our receipts from fundraising and donations increased by a remarkable 96.5% to £37,980 (2022 £19,327).

Our income from grants declined to £29,700(2022 £44,000). We are satisfied that this reflected a move towards self-generated unrestricted funds away from project-specific grants which fund individual initiatives. Whilst the latter will continue to support much needed work, we recognised that our longer-term priority is to bid for core funding grants that will provide a sustainable foundation to grow our future capacity.

Grants received

Sir George Martin Trust	£3,000	Developing regional hubs
Leeds Community Fund	£4,000	Advocacy project
Private individual	£2,400	Developing networks
Peoples Project Lottery	£10,000	Telefriending
Cognizant	£9,300	Digital Inclusion

Key fundraising events

- The 2nd All Out Together Ball - raised over £8k in profit and attracted 160 supporters and corporate partners.
- Leeds Law Society 2022/23 President’s annual dinner - chosen charity. Our higher profile undoubtedly boosted the proceeds of the raffle which raised £4250.

Events and Activities

The programme of regular members events continued, with 72 coffee and cake meet-ups in Leeds and Huddersfield, and 24 twice monthly lunches in Leeds. Attendance continued to grow. We organised one-off activities, including theatre visits and a seaside excursion. The annual Christmas party attracted 58 members and allies.

Digital inclusion

Our membership base includes a high proportion of people aged over 60. Although many of them can access the internet through broadband or smart phones, others are excluded for a variety of reasons. We communicate with them by phone and post, which adds to our workload. We were awarded a grant of £9k for a 12 month project beginning in 2024 that would survey our members needs and enable us to plan and implement a programme of activities designed to encourage all members to improve their digital skills.

Challenges we faced

Communications

We were disappointed not to make sufficient progress improving our digital communications, and it was agreed that this would be a high priority for 2024.

- **Social media**
Using external consultants we maintained a monthly programme of postings of our events and key activities that was successful in attracting new attendees, but we lacked internal expertise at management level to drive the system more effectively to reach targeted audiences.
- **Website**
Our website has been commended for its visual design but we made limited progress in maintaining the overall content.
- **Customer Relationship Management system (CRM)**
The transitional planning we did in 2022 showed that our inherited system for emailing members and supporters was becoming unwieldy for a charity of our size. We were unable easily to segment our digital communications for the separate audiences amongst our stakeholders. Our regular newsletter readership increased to 170, but it was primarily an events-based update for members. Although we acknowledged that the longer-term solution was to replace the system, this would need careful planning, and was carried forward to 2024.

Telefriending

We extended the 12-month pilot with Opening Doors London (ODL) but renegotiated the fee to reflect the experience we had gained, and that changes affecting ODL had reduced their capacity. With an existing base of 12 telefriendees we were keen to continue the service, but by October 2023 it became clear that ODL was in financial difficulties and all new telefriending referrals were stopped. (In February 2024 ODL ceased operations altogether; we have been successful in finding an alternative provider).

Increasing Capacity and measuring impact

Many small charities are run by trustees who combine strategic and operational responsibilities. Our existing small management team of 3 (including 1 part-time consultant) plus 3 volunteers succeeded in growing the charity's operations, but not achieving the rate of expansion that would have been possible with more managers and volunteers. We did not want to curtail our ambitions but struggled to devote enough time to the strategic efforts needed to boost capacity.

During the year we engaged with experts at the National Lottery Community Fund and at the Cranfield Trust and learned how this restricting cycle can trap a charity in a constant state of being under capacity. We were considered very investable to funders, with the potential to deliver significant measurable and sustainable

Section D Achievements and performance

outcomes. To achieve sustainable growth with a larger, more effective team would require longer-term core funding based on planning for at least a 3-4 year period.

We learned that many longer-term funding providers require evidence-based impact reports, which require baselines for tracking change or progress. We accepted that we had no realistic methodology for measuring our impact and the effectiveness of our collaboration with stakeholders. We concluded that as soon as it was feasible we would use a strategic planning tool known as Theory of Change.

Another limitation we have faced in addressing impact is that our community is primarily invisible, and therefore difficult to identify. In January 2023 West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) published a report from the Census 2021 about Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity. This provided for the first-time accurate data on LGBTQ+ demographics across the five local authorities in our region, for example that there were 6385 people aged 55 and over who identified as LGB, or that 11383 people stated that they have a different gender identity than the sex they were registered with.

The information we can obtain from the Census results will strengthen our efforts to secure funding and partnerships by highlighting the scale and importance of our work. For the first time we can quantify and champion the interests of our community based on real numbers, and set realistic, data-driven goals.

Outlook for 2024

At the time of writing this report we can look back at a very successful year so far with progress being made on recruitment of new trustees aligned with the objectives and requirements of the charity and with a sound financial base to support the continuation of our strategic plan.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

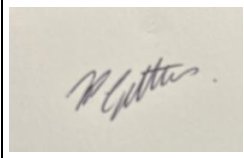
The charity aims to ensure that there are sufficient funds to allow it to continue its operations for at least three months without income. As the operational costs of the charity have been very low, the policy will be reviewed to reflect the plans for future expansion.

Section F Other optional information

Section G**Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		<i>aBall</i>
Full name(s)	Timothy Paul Gittins	Antony Ball
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Secretary
Date	30/10/24	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

OUT TOGETHER

1188461

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2023	To	Period end date 31/12/2023
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Fund raising and donations	37,980	-	-	37,980	19,327
Grants	-	29,700	-	29,700	44,000
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	37,980	29,700	-	67,680	63,327
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	37,980	29,700	-	67,680	63,327
A3 Payments					
Direct cost of charitable activities	16,347	11,889	-	28,236	19,572
Administration	2,421	3,195	-	5,616	4,491
Communications and PR	4,101	2,950	-	7,051	5,810
Consultancy	12,850	12,500	-	25,350	23,400
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	35,719	30,534	-	66,253	53,273
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	35,719	30,534	-	66,253	53,273
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,261	- 834	-	1,427	10,054
A5 Transfers between funds	- 237	237	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,720	12,397	-	23,117	-
Cash funds this year end	12,744	11,800	-	24,544	10,054

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF BANK	12,744	11,800	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	12,744	11,800	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

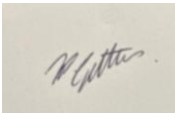
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees



Timothy Gittins

30/10/2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name
Out Together (formerly Friends of Dorothy)

On accounts for the year ended

31 December 2023

Charity no (if any)

1188461

Set out on pages

CC16a

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

C. J. Dunning

Date:

25/10/2024

Name:

Mr Charles Dunning ACA

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Chartered Accountant (ICAEW)

Address:

32 Coronation Avenue,
Normanton,
WF6 2LW

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

None.

Out Together

England & Wales - Charity number 1188461

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1 st	January	2022		31 st	December	2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

19 Church Lane	
Bardsey	
Leeds	
Postcode	LS17 9DH

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Tim Gittins	Chair		
2	Katie Robinson	Vice Chair		
3	Judith Firman	Treasurer		
4	Hannah Bithell			
5	Antony Ball	Secretary	Aug - Dec	
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small>	Constitution
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small>	Charitable incorporated organisation
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</small>	Appointed by board of trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees; • the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works; • relationship with any related parties; • trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.
--

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by working with people who are socially excluded on the grounds of their age and sexual orientation (in particular, elderly people who identify as

LGBT+) to relieve the needs of such people and assist them to integrate into society, in particular by:

- (a) providing a local network group that encourages and enables members to interact more effectively with the wider community (including the young LGBT+ community); and
- (b) raising public awareness of the issues affecting elderly people who identify as LGBT+ generally and in relation to their social exclusion.”

1. Improve the ability, opportunity for and dignity of those disadvantaged on the basis of their identity
2. Develop a collaborative out-reach strategy, with other agencies where needed, that helps find and identify people who could otherwise be excluded
3. Build an organisation to offer them befriending, signposting to other relevant organisations, and an inclusive network group which welcomes, protects and safeguards them
4. Design and implement a social media and PR strategy to communicate effectively with members and to promote external awareness of Out Together, especially within the LGBT community, that will foster mutual support
5. Encourage members to mobilize their individual skills and work together to realise and develop their strengths, with a range of regular activities and events that will encourage members to keep well, have fun and stay connected
6. Implement a fundraising programme that will minimise the dependency on, and uncertainty of, external grants needed to support continuing operations

During the period the trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission’s public benefit guidance and have taken this into account when making a decision to which the guidance is relevant.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

All our activities are volunteer led and we encourage and support our membership to be involved in the works of the charity.

Section D Achievements and performance

Overview

After the challenges faced during the previous two years, 2022 was a period of great progress for the charity. It began with optimism, and we significantly increased the scope and extent of the support to members, boosted our membership and external profile and ended the year with a positive agenda of how the charity would continue to thrive and grow.

The name change

The charity operated under its formal name of Friends of Dorothy during all of 2022. We began using 'Out Together' as a working 'brand' name in 2021, and it continued to be very successful during 2022. Towards the end of 2022 the decision was taken to register 'Out Together' as the official name of the charity, and this took place in 2023. For the purposes of this report on 2022 we will use the new name.

Membership

We define our membership as those people who have opted to be included on our database to receive details of our events and activities. Those wishing to attend an event are required to agree to a code of conduct. By the end of 2022, we had more than doubled the number of members to 127.

Events and Activities

The programme of scheduled subsidised gatherings for members was extended.

We continued the weekly coffee and cake sessions at an LGBT+ owned café in Leeds and the number of regular attendees grew steadily throughout the year.

We introduced monthly events

- 12 Sunday lunches at various venues across Leeds
- 12 meetings and lunches at Leeds Playhouse, with regular speakers

Section D Achievements and performance

The new 'hub' established in Huddersfield began with a twice monthly drop-in session at a city centre café and quickly established a core group of 6-8 attendees.

One-off events included:

- A Christmas lunch at the Clayton Hotel, attracting 46 guests
- Guided walks and visits to places of interest, such as the Royal Armouries
- Country gardens and churches with pub lunch
- A trip to Scarborough to enjoy fish and chips
- Theatre visits, in front and behind the scenes

The regular gatherings have become important fixtures on many of our members' calendars, especially those with limited social opportunities, because they can look forward to meeting people they have got to know. The one-off events have proved very popular.

Members' feedback indicates that having the chance to make new friendships and to look after each other has made a positive impact on their lives, increasing their wellbeing.

Befriending

The 12 month pilot scheme we negotiated with Opening Doors to provide an LGBTQ+ telephone "befriending service" began in May. By the end of the year the scheme had trained 10 telefrienders who were able to have weekly chats with 10 members across our region. This is an invaluable service for the befriendees, many of whom have little connection with other LGBTQ+ people or are unable to attend social events.

Communications

The most significant achievement for the charity was the start of the successful brand migration to 'Out Together', helped by the Leeds arm of the And Digital consultancy.

Our partnership began when their employees chose us to donate the proceeds of their own charitable fundraising. The company has an innovative policy of selecting community projects to support with pro-bono work provided by a team of problem solvers with diverse knowledge, skills and expertise in the digital market. Our relationship deepened when they offered to work with us to produce and implement a strategy to change our name across all our legal and operational activities. Beginning in September, we worked closely with their team to research and scope what was needed to:

- alter our domain name
- introduce the new branding across our website, email and social media platforms
- improve the user experience
- teach us the new skills needed to introduce an effective Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system

The support we were given by AND was exemplary, going far beyond our expectations, and we are extremely grateful to the company and the team members who helped. They enabled us to plan with confidence the actual transition scheduled for early 2023. The new branding helped us build a much greater profile, especially across social media.

We invested in regular support from a social media agency to establish regular postings on key platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.

Income, fundraising and relationship building

Our income in the year increased from £14k in 2021 to £64k in 2023.

Section D

Achievements and performance

There was a significant increase in personal and corporate donations, and our own fundraising, rising from £3.8k to £19.3k

We strengthened our capacity and expertise in making funding applications. During the year we received £44k in grants compared to £10k in 2021.

The grants were as follows (£k):

Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation	5
LGBT Consortium Futures Fund	25
Leeds City Council	1
Prince of Wales Trust	1.5
Albert Hunt Foundation	1
Awards for all	9.5
Live Well Leeds	1

The contract with a former trustee to provide part-time support our fundraising and operations was continued. He has a high profile as a fundraiser in the charity sector with many connections, has a large personal following on social media platforms and makes many personal appearances supporting other charities. His attributes were invaluable in helping us to build networks with corporate and other supporters as part of our fundraising activities.

This was clearly demonstrated by the outstanding success of the first Out Together Ball in June, which made a profit of £8500, and was attended by 130 people, including representatives from many public and private sectors .

Other notable milestones were our first corporate partnership with Weightmans Solicitors; a relationship with Wellington Place, Leeds – who chose us to receive large donations raised from their bespoke fundraising events -Stride for Pride, Drag Bingo and the Christmas Fayre lights launch. We were delighted to be chosen by the incoming President of the Leeds Law Society as his charity of the year for 2022/23, benefiting from his fundraising activities. This brought our profile to a much higher level amongst professional firms across the region.

Governance and management

Like many smaller charities, a small team is responsible for both our strategic and operational direction. We have always been conscious of the need for trustees to focus on long term sustainability and mission fulfilment, while leaving the day-to-day management to those responsible for operations. However, in a charity that is small and growing, it often proves difficult to separate the roles.

We were successful in raising the funds needed to engage the part-time operations manager, who joined a three-person management team, with the chairman and treasurer. This team was also advised by our new Secretary, Antony Ball a partner at Weightmans Solicitors, and a retired highly skilled businessman from the private sector. An operations committee, which included three volunteers, was formed to deliver the events and activities for our members, and they ensured that all our safeguarding policies were complied with.

It is a credit to all those involved with the significant development of the charity over the year that this was achieved by them volunteering to work far harder and longer than any of us expected would be needed. The experience of having to learn new skills, especially in the digital world, overcoming technical and other hurdles whilst at the same time maintaining the all-important focus on the wellbeing of our members was a challenging time. However, it became clear that there was a 'skills gap' and that we needed to have people involved at board and management level with experience in key disciplines, especially marketing and social media, finance and administration, as well as helping our members.

We were also acutely aware that that there were likely to be many more people in the LGBTQ+ community in our region who were suffering loneliness and isolation but who didn't know about us and we weren't able to locate them as, in many respects, we are an invisible community.

Hence we concentrated on planning for the rebranding initiative for early 2023 to be the foundation for our immediate future. This would ensure we maintained progress on achieving our constitutional objectives, both

Section D Achievements and performance

in numbers of members and becoming less Leeds centric. The relaunch would also be a springboard for us to find new trustees and volunteers with the skills to help develop the charity further.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity aims to ensure that there are sufficient funds to allow it to continue its operations for at least three months without income. As the operational costs of the charity have been very low, the policy will be reviewed to reflect the plans for future expansion.

Section F Other optional information

--

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	Tim Gittins	<i>aBall</i>
	Full name(s) Timothy Paul Gittins	Antony Ball
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Secretary
	Date	28/10/2023



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

OUT TOGETHER

No (if any)
1188461

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 1/1/2022	To	Period end date 12/31/2022
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
FUND RAISING AND DONATIONS	19,327	-	-	19,327	-
GRANTS	-	44,000	-	44,000	14,028
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	19,327	44,000	-	63,327	14,028
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	19,327	44,000	-	63,327	14,028
A3 Payments					
Direct cost of charitable activities	9,954	9,618	-	19,572	5,422
Administration	4,491	-	-	4,491	1,713
Communications and PR	5,275	535	-	5,810	2,720
Insurance	-	-	-	-	-
Legal	-	-	-	-	2,273
consultancy	1,950	21,450	-	23,400	1,050
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	21,670	31,603	-	53,273	13,178
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	21,670	31,603	-	53,273	13,178
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,343	12,397	-	10,054	850
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	13,063	-	-	13,063	-
Cash funds this year end	10,720	12,397	-	23,117	850

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF BANK	10,270	12,397	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	10,270	12,397	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Out Together (formerly Friends of Dorothy)

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1188461

Set out on pages

CC16a

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: 

Date: 30/10/2023

Name: Charlie Dunning ACA

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Chartered Accountant (ICAEW)

Address: 32 Coronation Avenue,
Normanton,
WF6 2LW

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

None.

Out Together

England & Wales - Charity number 1188461

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date

From

Period end date

To

1st
January
2021

31st
December
2021

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Friends of Dorothy

Other names charity is known by

Out Together

Registered charity number (if any)

1188461

Charity's principal address

19 Church Lane

Bardsey

Leeds

Postcode

LS17 9DH

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name
Office (if any)
Dates acted if not for whole year
Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)

Tim Gittins
Secretary
Chair

July - Dec

Katie Robinson
Vice Chair

Judith Firman
Treasurer

David Scottow

Chair
Jan - June

6

Nadine Pemberton

June-Dec

7

John Cannon

Jan - July

8

Paul Callaghan

Jan - July

9

Matthew Jameson

Jan - Nov

10

11

12

13

15

16

17

18

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name
Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser

Name

Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable incorporated organisation

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Appointed by board of trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by working with people who are socially excluded on the grounds of their age and sexual orientation (in particular, elderly people who identify as LGBT+) to relieve the needs of such people and assist them to integrate into society, in particular by:

- (a) providing a local network group that encourages and enables members to interact more effectively with the wider community (including the young LGBT+ community); and
- (b) raising public awareness of the issues affecting elderly people who identify as LGBT+ generally and in relation to their social exclusion

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

1. Improve the ability, opportunity for and dignity of those disadvantaged on the basis of their sexuality and gender identity
2. Develop a collaborative out-reach strategy, with other agencies where needed, that helps find and identify people who could otherwise be excluded

3. Build an organisation to offer them befriending, signposting to other relevant organisations, and an inclusive network group which welcomes, protects and safeguards them
4. Design and implement a social media and PR strategy to communicate effectively with members and to promote external awareness of FOD, especially within the LGBT+ social community, that will foster mutual support
5. Encourage members to mobilize their individual skills and work together to realise and develop their strengths, with a range of regular activities and events that will encourage members to keep well, have fun and stay connected
6. Implement a fundraising programme that will minimise the dependency on, and uncertainty of, external grants needed to support continuing operations

During the period the trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance and have taken this into account when making a decision to which the guidance is relevant.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

All our activities are volunteer led and we encourage and support our membership to be involved in the works of the charity.

Section D Achievements and performance

Overview

Like many other charities, 2021 was a challenging year for Friends of Dorothy. Operationally, we had to navigate the various lockdowns, which for our older LGBT+ members added to the sense of isolation and loneliness they may have already been feeling. Our resolve was also severely tested by dealing with the legal matters that we referred to last year (see optional notes). On both counts the solidarity of the board was unquestionable in its determination to overcome the challenges.

It is therefore very satisfying to report that by the end of the year we were stronger with a renewed sense of purpose.

Events and Activities

We continued with regular zoom "meet ups" every Thursday lunchtime until interest in them reduced to the point where we decided to stop (zoom fatigue). We also continued to deliver afternoon teas to those who welcomed our offer. When it became possible, we arranged small group meetups in parks and open spaces. We have a small group of individuals who are not "connected" to the internet and do not have smart phones (and do not want them either). We made it a priority to contact them by phone calls or post to keep them informed. We also hand delivered an easter egg to each of our members in the Yorkshire area. Further we also collaborated with other LGBT+ organisations in the Leeds area to share in activities where it could be COVID safe.

In June we began a weekly coffee morning at a local LGBT+ friendly café, where we subsidised coffee and cake. This provides a regular meeting spot where people can just drop in – knowing there will be a friendly face to chat to.

Just before the Christmas restrictions came into force, we were able to hold a very popular Christmas Party providing a three course meal, and supply Christmas hampers for those in

greater need.

Communications

We recognise the importance of social media channels in creating awareness about our purpose and strategies. To this end we commissioned experts to review our media and digital presence and to find ways to increase traffic on our sites.

This exercise produced a very positive outcome. It became clear that, although 'Friends of Dorothy' was recognised by those who understood its origins (a code for gay men to recognise other gay men) the name did not resonate with other sections of the LGBT+ community.

'Out Together' was proposed as an additional name that would better reflect our aims and objectives to be an inclusive organisation. Towards the end of the year we began using it gradually and it proved to be very successful, especially on social media. We increased our membership and, in particular, we attracted more women.

The refocus also helped encourage more members to become active volunteers helping to run our social programmes.

Befriending

Negotiations continued with Opening Doors who will partner with us to provide a telephone "befriending service" with a start date planned for mid 2022.

Fundraising

With no significant overheads and few physical events, financing our social programmes required limited funding during the year. We were awarded a Mini Metro Grant which we used to finance the Christmas party. Another grant from Leeds Time to Shine was used to support the review of our communications and media platforms.

Strategy review.

We constantly examine how best to achieve our constitutional objectives. A major review mid-year reset the strategies for the following 12 months and confirmed the priorities we would need to focus on. It was clear that we would need more people resource to deliver our ambitions to expand beyond Leeds and achieve more diverse representation in our membership profile.

This increase in the level of our operations would require a part-time operational manager to oversee the day to day running of the charity and its activities, managing its volunteer-base and securing financing. This would require funding and we enlisted the services of a bid writer to help us raise the necessary funds for the appointment, and for the increasing operational costs for the activities programme and maintenance of our social media platforms.

Whilst the process of reviewing our increased fund-raising activities for 2022 was underway, we engaged a former trustee with extensive experience in the charity sector, to help achieve our operational plans.

Manchester

Our beginnings as a social group then becoming a charity was primarily based on two cities—Leeds and Manchester – and this was reflected in our board composition. During the mid-year review which reaffirmed the need to expand the charity's constitutional West Yorkshire focus, our two Manchester colleagues decided that expansion was not required in the city. It has a number of well-established other charitable organisations providing similar support to the LGBT+ community to the extent that there was overlap with Friends of Dorothy and therefore duplication of effort. The board unanimously agreed that it would be sensible for the Manchester operation to revert back to a social group and this was achieved amicably, with two trustees stepping down.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity aims to ensure that there are sufficient funds to allow it to continue its operations for at least three months without income. As the operational costs of the charity have been very low, the policy will be reviewed to reflect the plans for future expansion.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

In the Trustees 2020 report we drew attention to a potential legal claim against the charity and its individual trustees, which arose in that year from our duty to report a serious incident to the appropriate authorities. By the end of 2021 there had been no official notification that proceedings had been lodged, and the limitation period had expired. However, the process had required us to seek legal advice, the costs of which were largely reimbursed by the charity's insurance. The remaining balance, shown as legal costs in the receipts and payments account, was covered by private donations, which are included in the accounts as restricted funds.

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Tim Gittins
Judith Firman

Full name(s)

Timothy Paul Gittins
Judith Ann Firman

Chair
Treasurer

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

27/10/2022

Date



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Friends of Dorothy	No (if any) 1188461
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 1/1/2021	To	Period end date 12/31/2021
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Grants	3,888	10,140	-	14,028
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	3,888	10,140	-	14,028
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	3,888	10,140	-	14,028
A3 Payments				
Direct cost of charitable activities	33	5,389	-	5,422
Administration	-	885	-	885
Communications and PR	2,654	66	-	2,720
Insurance	828	-	-	828
Legal	-	2,273	-	2,273
consultancy	1,050	-	-	1,050
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	4,565	8,613	-	13,178
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total payments	4,565	8,613	-	13,178
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 677	1,527	-	850
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	13,740	- 1,527	-	12,213
Cash funds this year end	13,063	-	-	13,063

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Bank	13,063	-
		-	-
		-	-
	Total cash funds	13,063	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
B3 Investment assets		-
		-
		-
		-
		-

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-
		-

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
B5 Liabilities		-
		-
		-
		-
		-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name
	Tim Gittins
	Judith Firman

CC16a

**Last year
to the nearest £**

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Endowment funds

to nearest £

-
-
-
-

OK

Endowment funds

to nearest £

-
-
-
-
-
-

Current value (optional)

-
-
-
-
-

Current value (optional)

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

When due (optional)

Date of approval

10/27/2022
10/27/2022

Out Together

England & Wales - Charity number 1188461

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	10th	March	2020		31 st	December	2020

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

19 Church Lane
Bardsey
Leeds
Postcode <input type="text" value="LS17 9DH"/>

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Tim Gittins	Secretary		
2	Katie Robinson	Vice Chair		
3	Judith Firman	Chair (Mar-June) Treasurer		
4	David Scottow	Chair(July-Dec)		
5	Hannah Bithell			
6	Nadine Pemberton		June-Dec	
7	John Cannon		May - Dec	
8	Paul Callaghan		June-Dec	
9	Matthew Jameson			
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

--	--

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <i>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</i>	Constitution
How the charity is constituted <i>(eg. trust, association, company)</i>	Charitable incorporated organisation
Trustee selection methods <i>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</i>	Appointed by board of trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

<p>To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by working with people who are socially excluded on the grounds of their age and sexual orientation (in particular, elderly people who identify as</p>
--

LGBT+) to relieve the needs of such people and assist them to integrate into society, in particular by:

- (a) providing a local network group that encourages and enables members to interact more effectively with the wider community (including the young LGBT+ community); and
- (b) raising public awareness of the issues affecting elderly people who identify as LGBT+ generally and in relation to their social exclusion.”

1. Improve the ability, opportunity for and dignity of those disadvantaged on the basis of their identity
2. Develop a collaborative out-reach strategy, with other agencies where needed, that helps find and identify people who could otherwise be excluded
3. Build an organisation to offer them befriending, signposting to other relevant organisations, and an inclusive network group which welcomes, protects and safeguards them
4. Design and implement a social media and PR strategy to communicate effectively with members and to promote external awareness of FOD, especially within the LGBT community, that will foster mutual support
5. Encourage members to mobilize their individual skills and work together to realise and develop their strengths, with a range of regular activities and events that will encourage members to keep well, have fun and stay connected
6. Implement a fundraising programme that will minimise the dependency on, and uncertainty of, external grants needed to support continuing operations

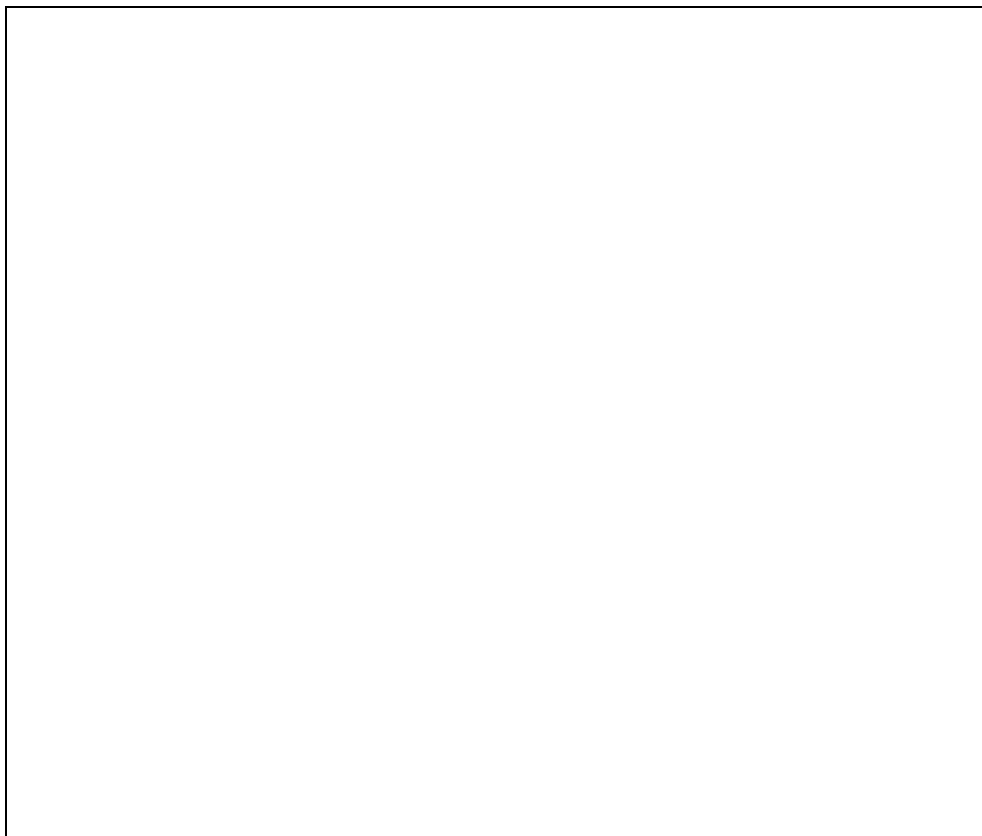
During the period the trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission’s public benefit guidance and have taken this into account when making a decision to which the guidance is relevant.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.



Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Almost immediately after the incorporation of the charity, the restrictions imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic prevented the continuation of the social and other activities that had been run by the social group which preceded the charity. In their place FOD introduced a series of zoom gatherings, which served to bring together members from across the region and beyond. However, not all the beneficiaries were able to take advantage of this, either because of lack of personal skills or internet access. The charity managed to address many of the barriers which members faced, supplying equipment, with FOD volunteers providing technical support.

A programme of afternoon tea deliveries once per month to selected beneficiaries was organised from September onwards, and Christmas hampers and cards were given. When lockdown restrictions were briefly lifted one face to face walk was organised.

With reference to the matters dealt with in Section F below, managing the reputational risks and the legal process placed considerable stress on the charity's operations. However, all the activities organised for beneficiaries were carried out without interruption and with minimal loss of their support, which represents a major achievement.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity aims to ensure that there are sufficient funds to allow it to continue its operations for at least three months without income. As the operational costs of the charity have been very low, the policy will be reviewed to reflect the plans for future expansion.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

With reference to the matters in Section F below, the overall legal costs of the claim have been fully met by the charity's insurance policy and restricted donations. However, at the end of the reporting period, the expenditure had exceeded receipts, so the restricted funds went temporarily into deficit.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

Section F Other optional information

During the year an unauthorised transaction was carried out by a former volunteer of the charity. As trustees have a legal duty to safeguard the charity's assets, the charity's lawyers were informed of the details. They advised that the matter should be reported as a serious incident to the appropriate authorities, including the Charities Commission, and this was carried out. The volunteer's lawyers issued a letter of claim against the charity and the individual trustees, pursuant to formally registering a claim for damages with the courts and serving the claim on the defendants. The claimant's public statement questioning the behaviour and integrity of the charity and its trustees brought about a crisis of confidence amongst some beneficiaries and risked harming the charity's work and its reputation. The trustees decided that this should also be reported as a serious incident.

By the end of 2020 no progress had been made in negotiating a settlement. The process continued intermittently throughout 2021, but by the end of the limitation period allowed for a claim to be formally processed, no notice of proceedings being issued at the courts had been received. We are advised that, at the time of writing this report, it is theoretically possible that the proceedings may have been lodged, but as yet not notified to the defendants.

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	Tim Gittins	Judith Firman
	Timothy Paul Gittins	Judith Ann Firman
Full name(s)	Timothy Paul Gittins	Judith Ann Firman
	Chair	Treasurer
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)		
Date	13/12/2021	13/12/2021



Receipts and payments account

For the period from	Period start date 10th March 2020	To	31st March 2021
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £
A1 Receipts			
Charitable Donations	16,618	-	-
Grants received		5,000	-
Restricted donations		1,000	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	16,618	6,000	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).			
	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-
Total receipts	16,618	6,000	-
A3 Payments			
Direct cost of services	256	571	-
Office and Admin	207	-	-
Comms & PR	936	5,000	-
Insurance	421	-	-
Legal & Professional	780	1,956	-
Subscriptions	278	-	-
	-	-	-
Sub total	2,878	7,527	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)			
	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-
Total payments	2,878	7,527	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	13,740	- 1,527	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	13,740	- 1,527	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Charities Age Foundation	7,046
	Lloyds Bank	2,859
		-
	Total cash funds	9,905
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs
B3 Investment assets		
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		
	Details	Fund to which liability relates
B5 Liabilities		
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name
		Tim Gi
		Judith F

o (if any)
188461

units

Period end date
1st December 2020

CC16a



Total funds

Last year

to the nearest £

to the nearest £

16,618	-
5,000	-
1,000	-
-	-
-	-
22,618	-

-	aa
-	-

22,618	-
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827	-
207	-
5,936	-
421	-
2,736	-
278	-
-	-
10,405	-

-	-
-	-

10,405	-
--------	---

12,213	-
-	-
-	-
12,213	-

od

Restricted funds	Endowment funds
to nearest £	to nearest £
2,307	-
	-
-	-
2,307	-

Agreement Error OK

Restricted funds	Endowment funds
to nearest £	to nearest £
-	-

Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
-	-

Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
-	-
-	-
-	-

Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
-	
-	
-	

Name	Date of approval
ttins	13/12/2021
irman	13/12/2021