



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

Out Together (formerly Friends of Dorothy)

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		
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)

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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

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)

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.

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

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



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

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.