

THE BLACKHEATH SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 1196292

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2021-10-27

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

Contact

Address The Old Bakehouse
11 Blackheath Village
Blackheath
London
SE3 9LA

Phone 02082971937

Email office@blackheath.org

Website <https://www.blackheath.org>

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY SHALL BE TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC SUCH FEATURES OF BLACKHEATH AND ITS VICINITY AS ARE OF PARTICULAR BEAUTY OR HISTORICAL, ARCHITECTURAL OR CONSTRUCTIONAL INTEREST, TO PROTECT FROM DISFIGUREMENT OR ENCROACHMENT ITS OPEN SPACES, PARTICULARLY THE HEATH, TO ENCOURAGE HIGH STANDARDS OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE IN ITS NEW BUILDINGS, AND GENERALLY TO PROMOTE INTEREST IN THE AMENITIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISTRICT, AND IN FURTHERANCE OF THE OBJECTS, TO MONITOR, PROTECT AND SEEK TO IMPROVE OR ENHANCE ITS ENVIRONMENT, SECURITY AND CHARACTER, INCLUDING ITS BUILT ENVIRONMENT, ITS TRANSPORT AND LICENSING REGIMES.

Activities: We aim to preserve and enhance for the benefit of the public the features of Blackheath of particular beauty or historical and architectural interest; to protect its open spaces; to encourage high standards of planning and architecture in its new buildings; to promote improvements to the amenities of the area and to encourage appreciation of its character and history.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Greenwich
- Lewisham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£70,435	£71,590	-	-
2023-12-31	£64,563	£77,063	-	-
2022-12-31	£724,800	£90,157	£644,730	1

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
PAUL WATTS	Chair	2021-12-13
Adam Oliver		2024-09-09
Ana Sutherland		2022-09-12
Dame Helen May REEVES		2021-12-13
Diane Anna SUMMERS		2021-12-13
Elizabeth WRIGHT		2021-12-13
Henry Allan GRIFFIN		2021-12-13
Howard John SHIELDS		2021-12-13
John Barron		2025-03-10
John Roy BARTRAM		2021-12-13
Nicholas Patton		2021-12-13
Nicola Peers		2021-12-13
Prof John Bellhouse SCHOFIELD		2021-12-13
Sarah Elizabeth MANSFIELD		2021-12-13

THE BLACKHEATH SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1196292

Accounts

Charity registration number: 1196292

The Blackheath Society

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
London
SE3 0RB

The Blackheath Society

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The Blackheath Society

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Paul Watts Dame Helen Reeves Andrew Westbrook John Bartram Allan Griffin Sarah Mansfield Nicholas Patton Nicola Peers John Schofield Howard Shields Diane Summers Ana Sutherland Elizabeth Wright Adam Oliver John Barron
Secretary	Sacha Bright
Chair	Paul Watts
Vice - Chair	Dame Helen Reeves
Treasurer	Andrew Westbrook
Vice-Presidents	David Quarmby Tony Aldous Lord Stone of Blackheath
Charity Registration Number	1196292
Principal Office	The Old Bakehouse 11 Blackheath Village Blackheath London SE3 9LA

The Blackheath Society

Reference and Administrative Details (continued)

Independent Examiner

Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
London
SE3 0RB

The Blackheath Society

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Trustee's Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

Chair's report

2024 started with the sad death of our President, Neil Rhind MBE FSA on 10 February, just after his 87th birthday and the 87th anniversary of the formation of the Society. Full tributes to Neil were published in our Spring and Summer 2024 newsletters and there was a well-attended celebration of his life at an event at Blackheath Halls in July. The Society was fortunate to receive a legacy from his estate and is also the beneficiary of much of his research and other work. Our archive team are working on how best to deal with all these records, and we are also working with Neil's literary executors on the publication of two unfinished books – "Walking Westcombe" (expected in June 2025) and "Volume 4 of Blackheath Village and Environs" (hopefully in time for Christmas 2025).

Blackheath Village was faced with various new planning consultations and applications in the year, including a proposal for development of the station car park and temporary re-location of the farmers' market during construction. This project was in its non-statutory consultation period in 2024, and our planning group was heavily involved in discussions with the developer. This matter, which is now a live application in statutory consultation, will continue well into 2025 and possibly beyond.

We worked closely with Network Rail, Southeastern trains and the Railway Heritage Trust on the repair and redecoration of Blackheath Station. Work on the platforms and canopies is largely complete, and we hope that work on the front of the station will be completed over the summer. We continue to press Southeastern for the return of a regular half hourly off-peak service to Charing Cross and a few services have been slowly returned to the timetable.

We again enjoyed a packed programme of events for members, including the fourth Kite Day on the heath. There was also an interesting series of architecture group activities including a day out in Brighton to see both Regency town houses and 1930s architecture, as well as a fish and chip lunch. The Open House events included a tour of St Margaret's Churchyard by Paul Wright and a Cator Estate Span Houses Walk run by our Trustee Ana Sutherland, following the publication of her award-winning book on Modern buildings in Blackheath and Greenwich.

Challenges to the retail environment continue and, in the Village, we saw the closure of several businesses including the flower shop next to the station after a 100-year tenure, JoJo Maman Bebe and Blackheath Creatives, after a three-year pop-up period the former Café Rouge. New businesses featured in our newsletters included Clarendon Fine Art, Italian restaurant Prosecco, Nepalese restaurant Panas and Thai restaurant Cha Louis.

The Blackheath Joint Working Party allocated some of the remaining community fund monies including new play equipment for the Talbot Place play area. The annual Heath clean-up day in October working with members and other volunteers was another great success.

The annual cricket match against the Greenwich Society was rained off so the Golden Elephant remains (hopefully temporarily) with the Greenwich Society.

The archive team's work has increased as we are the beneficiaries of much of Neil Rhind's archive which needs careful review and cataloguing and we are fortunate in having a new volunteer Len to assist with this important work.

The Blackheath Society

Trustees' Report (continued)

We continued to attract new people and welcomed around 70 new members in 2024, and now have over 1,000 households as members for the first time in many years. We held regular new members' evenings to understand interests and there are always opportunities for both new and existing members to assist the Society in its many areas of activity.

David Walker stood down as a trustee at the 2024 AGM after 22 years and I thank him for his work and dedication on matters including transport and the BJWP. We welcomed Adam Oliver and John Barron as new trustees in 2024

I would like to conclude with my sincere thanks to our many volunteers, to my fellow Trustees, and especially to our secretary Sacha Bright for her enthusiasm and dedication to the Society during another busy year.

Financial review

The Society's results on unrestricted funds, before gains or losses on investment assets, was a surplus of £7,456 (2023: deficit of £1,975). The net movement in total funds was a surplus of £3,395 (2023: deficit £16,449)

The Society's annual income, mainly from membership fees and investment income, covers routine office and other overheads. Expenditure on additional projects and activities is generally funded by reserves or from donations and other sources.

Membership saw an increase to 1,017 households (2023: 969) The household membership fee remained at £20 per annum for 2024 and has been unchanged since 2018.

The Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund) Investments included within fixed assets was valued at £208,656 at the year end, after a further investment of £40,000 made during the year (2023: £164,106). The Charifund investments generated income for the year of £10,292 (2023: £9,778).

We continued to hold a property investment asset, the freehold of Tranquil Hall in Blackheath Village, which was revalued in 2022 and continues to be held at £410,000 in the accounts (2023: £410,000) and is rented to Heath House, a local Preparatory School.

The Society's total funds were £631,676 at 31 December 2024 (2023: £628,281) and we remain in a strong financial position.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees regularly review the Society's requirements for reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation.

The annual income of the Society is derived from members' subscriptions, donations, investment income and from the rental income received on Tranquil Hall.

The Trustees aim to ensure that annual running costs are controlled carefully and are met from annual income, and that budgets are set accordingly. In the case of special projects, external grants and donations are sought and raised wherever possible, but always in conjunction with the use of the Society's own designated funds.

The Blackheath Society

Trustees' Report (continued)

The possibility always exists that a situation might arise where the Trustees would feel it right to incur significant professional and other costs to meet the objects of the Society. For these reasons, it is considered vital to hold sufficient unrestricted financial reserves to be drawn on in periods of emergency and cash-flow difficulty to protect the Society from the risk of insolvency and from serious disruption to its work, and to enable it to mount any major campaign thought appropriate.

The Trustees therefore consider that the reserves held are at an appropriate level at 31 December 2024.

Appointment, recruitment, and election of Trustees

Management Committee members (Trustees) are appointed in accordance with the Society's Rules, and comprise not less than 10 and not more than 15 members who may be elected at a general meeting or co-opted by the Management Committee. All members of the Society are eligible to stand for appointment, and other than the Chair (whose maximum term is two consecutive terms of three years), one-third of all Trustees must retire from office at each AGM but may stand for re-appointment. Copies of the Rules are available from the Secretary.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's objectives and activities and in the planning of future activities. It is the judgement of the Trustees that activities in pursuit of the above objectives fully meet the public benefit test, which they have kept in mind in planning programmes for the charity. In delivering services and in the appointment of staff, volunteers and trustees the charity operates a strict policy of no discrimination on any grounds.

Risk Management

The Trustees regularly review the major risks to which the Society is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks that the Society faces. Internal control risks are minimised by the operation of procedures for the authorisation of all transactions and projects, and through the use of a risk register that is reviewed regularly by the Trustees.

Investment Policy

The Trustees adopt a prudent policy and surplus funds are currently held in bank deposit accounts, invested in Charifund units. The Charifund income for the year was £10,292 representing a yield of 4.93% (2023: 5.95%) on a closing valuation of £208,656.

The Blackheath Society

Trustees' Report (continued)

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	Paul Watts
	Dame Helen Reeves
	Andrew Westbrook
	John Bartram
	Allan Griffin
	Sarah Mansfield
	Nicholas Patton
	Nicola Peers
	John Schofield
	Howard Shields
	Diane Summers
	Ana Sutherland
	David Walker (resigned 12 September 2024)
	Elizabeth Wright
	Adam Oliver (appointed 9 September 2024)
	John Barron (appointed 10 March 2025)
Chair:	Paul Watts
Vice - Chair:	Dame Helen Reeves
Secretary:	Sacha Bright
Treasurer:	Andrew Westbrook
Vice-Presidents:	David Quarmby
	Tony Aldous
	Lord Stone of Blackheath

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The Blackheath Society

Trustees' Report (continued)

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on and signed on its behalf by:

29/05/2025


.....
Paul Watts
Chair and trustee

The Blackheath Society

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Blackheath Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

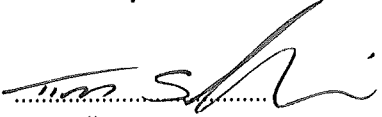
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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

The Blackheath Society

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Blackheath Society (continued)



.....
Tim Sullivan FCA
Field Sullivan Chartered Accountants
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
London
SE3 0RB

Date:.....2/16/25.....

The Blackheath Society

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:						
3	20,048	1,000	21,048	13,195	2,735	15,930
4	8,062	-	8,062	8,233	-	8,233
5	41,325	-	41,325	40,400	-	40,400
	<u>69,435</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>70,435</u>	<u>61,828</u>	<u>2,735</u>	<u>64,563</u>
Expenditure on:						
6	(61,979)	(9,611)	(71,590)	(63,803)	(13,260)	(77,063)
	<u>(61,979)</u>	<u>(9,611)</u>	<u>(71,590)</u>	<u>(63,803)</u>	<u>(13,260)</u>	<u>(77,063)</u>
	4,550	-	4,550	(3,949)	-	(3,949)
	<u>12,006</u>	<u>(8,611)</u>	<u>3,395</u>	<u>(5,924)</u>	<u>(10,525)</u>	<u>(16,449)</u>
	-	-	-	(342)	342	-
	<u>12,006</u>	<u>(8,611)</u>	<u>3,395</u>	<u>(6,266)</u>	<u>(10,183)</u>	<u>(16,449)</u>
	<u>602,060</u>	<u>26,221</u>	<u>628,281</u>	<u>608,326</u>	<u>36,404</u>	<u>644,730</u>
19	<u>614,066</u>	<u>17,610</u>	<u>631,676</u>	<u>602,060</u>	<u>26,221</u>	<u>628,281</u>

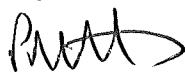
All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.
The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 19.

The Blackheath Society
(Registration number: 1196292)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

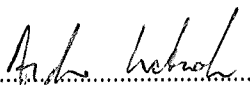
	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	12	618,656	574,106
Current assets			
Stocks	14	3,242	7,121
Debtors	15	11,590	7,411
Cash at bank and in hand	16	<u>42,542</u>	<u>82,486</u>
		57,374	97,018
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>(43,858)</u>	<u>(42,159)</u>
Net current assets		<u>13,516</u>	<u>54,859</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		632,172	628,965
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	18	<u>(496)</u>	<u>(684)</u>
Net assets		<u>631,676</u>	<u>628,281</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		17,610	26,221
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>614,066</u>	<u>602,060</u>
Total funds	19	<u>631,676</u>	<u>628,281</u>

The financial statements on pages 10 to 22 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on

29/05/2025 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Paul Watts
Trustee



.....
Andrew Westbrook
Trustee

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

1 Charity status

The charity is domiciled in England and Wales.

The address of its registered office is:

The Old Bakehouse
11 Blackheath Village
Blackheath

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) was incorporated on 27 October 2021 and took over the business of the Blackheath Society from 1 January 2022.

2 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Second edition October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

The Blackheath Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

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

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Furniture and equipment	15% straight line basis

Investment properties

Investment property is carried at fair value, derived from the current market prices for comparable real estate determined annually by external valuers. The valuers use observable market prices, adjusted if necessary for any difference in the nature, location or condition of the specific asset. Changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss.

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out (FIFO).

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;				
Donations	608	1,000	1,608	2,898
Legacies	5,000	-	5,000	-
Gift aid reclaimed	693	-	693	-
Annual subscriptions	13,514	-	13,514	12,729
Life subscriptions	233	-	233	303
	<u>20,048</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>21,048</u>	<u>15,930</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Event income	3,404	3,404	5,581
Sale of publications and cards	4,658	4,658	2,652
	<u>8,062</u>	<u>8,062</u>	<u>8,233</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Bank interest and dividends	11,325	11,325	10,400
Income from investment properties	30,000	30,000	30,000
	<u>41,325</u>	<u>41,325</u>	<u>40,400</u>

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Event expenses		3,372	8,311	11,683	10,069
Christmas lights		784	1,300	2,084	5,841
Christmas cards		1,518	-	1,518	690
Rent and service charge		10,964	-	10,964	10,515
Books		3,879	-	3,879	1,208
Newsletter and annual report		3,140	-	3,140	3,155
Staff costs	9	26,248	-	26,248	25,310
Support costs	7	12,074	-	12,074	20,275
		<u>61,979</u>	<u>9,611</u>	<u>71,590</u>	<u>77,063</u>

7 Analysis of support costs

Support costs

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Insurance	1,129	1,524
Office expenses	225	269
Donations	906	2,000
Bank charges	89	86
Other charges	125	100
Staff training	-	322
Computer software and maintenance	3,101	3,040
Printing, postage and telephone	552	698
Sundries	887	483
AGM costs	549	364
Independent examination	2,436	2,364
Bookkeeping	2,075	2,125
Legal and professional	-	6,900
	<u>12,074</u>	<u>20,275</u>

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	21,508	21,708
Pension costs	4,740	3,602
	<u>26,248</u>	<u>25,310</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

11 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made the following related party transactions:

Paul Watts and Andrew Westbrook

Trustees Paul Watts and Andrew Westbrook are, from 18 December 2024, directors and shareholders in The Bookshop on the Heath Limited, a company that The Blackheath Society occasionally sells cards and publications through on normal commercial terms. There was an amount owing from the Bookshop on the Heath Limited of £550 in respect of Christmas Cards at 31 December 2024. At the balance sheet date the amount due to/from Paul Watts and Andrew Westbrook was £Nil (2023 - £Nil).

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

12 Fixed asset investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Investment properties	410,000	410,000
Other investments	208,656	164,106
	618,656	574,106

Investment properties

	Investment properties
	£
Cost or Valuation	
At 1 January 2024	410,000
At 31 December 2024	410,000
Provision	
At 31 December 2024	-
Net book value	
At 31 December 2024	410,000
At 31 December 2023	410,000

The freehold property, Tranquil Hall, was bequeathed to the Society in 1975 and is held as investment property. The original value of the property on acquisition was £12,500. The property was revalued by Baxter Philips on 31 December 2022 at £410,000 as market value, and agreed on as a suitable valuation at 31 December 2024 by the trustees.

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

Other investments

	Unlisted investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 January 2024	164,106	164,106
Additions	40,000	40,000
Revaluation	4,550	4,550
At 31 December 2024	208,656	208,656
Net book value		
At 31 December 2024	208,656	208,656
At 31 December 2023	164,106	164,106

Other investments at 31 December 2024 comprise 14,171 units of M&G Investments Charifund units.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2024	2,082	2,082
Disposals	(15)	(15)
At 31 December 2024	2,067	2,067
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2024	2,082	2,082
Eliminated on disposals	(15)	(15)
At 31 December 2024	2,067	2,067
Net book value		
At 31 December 2024	-	-
At 31 December 2023	-	-

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

14 Stock

	2024 £	2023 £
Stocks	3,242	7,121

15 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	11,590	7,411

16 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash on hand	10	10
Cash at bank	42,532	82,476
	<u>42,542</u>	<u>82,486</u>

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	31,806	30,130
Accruals	2,592	2,524
Deferred income	9,460	9,505
	<u>43,858</u>	<u>42,159</u>

18 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income	496	684

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £	
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	602,060	69,435	(61,979)	4,550	614,066	
Restricted funds						
OnBlackheath	24,840	-	(8,311)	-	16,529	
Christmas Lights	300	1,000	(1,300)	-	-	
Talbot Place	1,081	-	-	-	1,081	
	<u>26,221</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>(9,611)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,610</u>	
Total funds	<u>628,281</u>	<u>70,435</u>	<u>(71,590)</u>	<u>4,550</u>	<u>631,676</u>	
	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
General funds	<u>608,326</u>	<u>61,828</u>	<u>(63,803)</u>	<u>(342)</u>	<u>(3,949)</u>	<u>602,060</u>
Restricted funds						
OnBlackheath	22,405	2,435	-	-	-	24,840
Christmas lights	5,499	300	(5,841)	342	-	300
Talbot Place	8,500	-	(7,419)	-	-	1,081
	<u>36,404</u>	<u>2,735</u>	<u>(13,260)</u>	<u>342</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,221</u>
Total funds	<u>644,730</u>	<u>64,563</u>	<u>(77,063)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,949)</u>	<u>628,281</u>

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

OnBlackheath - these amounts represent monies received from the on Blackheath festivals in 2018 and earlier to be used on communitiy projects on the heath that have been proposed by the Blackheath Joint Working Party.

Christmas Lights - to arrange 'Blackheath Xmas Lights' for the village.

Talbot Place - to be used for the Talbot Place play area.

Transfer from unrestricted funds to cover the additional expenditure incurred for Christmas Lights.

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 December 2024 £
Fixed asset investments	618,656	-	618,656
Current assets	39,764	17,610	57,374
Current liabilities	(43,858)	-	(43,858)
Creditors over 1 year	(496)	-	(496)
Total net assets	614,066	17,610	631,676
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 December 2023 £
Fixed asset investments	574,106	-	574,106
Current assets	70,797	26,221	97,018
Current liabilities	(42,159)	-	(42,159)
Creditors over 1 year	(684)	-	(684)
Total net assets	602,060	26,221	628,281

THE BLACKHEATH SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1196292

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT

2023 / 2024



WHAT DOES THE BLACKHEATH SOCIETY DO?

The Society can claim many achievements since its foundation in 1937. We work with local councils, residents, amenity groups, traders, police and national bodies - with everyone who can contribute to the enhancement of Blackheath.

We aim to preserve and enhance for the benefit of the public the features of Blackheath of particular beauty or historical

and architectural interest; to protect its open spaces from disfigurement or encroachment, particularly the Heath; to encourage high standards of planning and architecture in its new buildings; to promote improvements to the amenities of the area and to encourage appreciation of its character and history.

BLACKHEATH VILLAGE

We work with other community organisations and local traders to enhance the Village and organise and support local events, such as talks and visits to places of local interest.

THE HEATH

We work to preserve the health and enjoyment of the Heath and oppose commercial exploitation and damage from overuse.

TRAFFIC AND TRAVEL

We monitor major developments that have an effect on the traffic in Blackheath. We campaign for better railway and bus services and for station improvements.

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION

We encourage good modern design, while preserving our existing heritage. We scrutinise planning proposals, advise local councils and appear at public inquiries.

HISTORY AND EDUCATION / EVENTS

We maintain a unique archive of more than 20,000 images of Blackheath. We sponsor talks, exhibitions and publications about the history of the area, organise local walks and publish guides.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

JOIN THE SOCIETY

Keep up to date with local news and have a voice in future developments..

JOIN OUR ACTIVITIES

Whether you have expertise in our areas of interest or time to give practical help, along with other people involved in Village life.

For general information and advice on matters concerning the activities and work of The Society apply to:

The Secretary, The Blackheath Society,
Studio 2, The Old Bakehouse,
11 Blackheath Village, London, SE3 9LA

- 📞 020 8297 1937
- ✉ office@blackheath.org
- 🌐 www.blackheath.org
- 📘 [BlackheathSociety](https://www.facebook.com/BlackheathSociety)
- 🐦 [@BlackheathSoc](https://twitter.com/BlackheathSoc)



ANNUAL REPORT

2023 / 2024

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CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION



Society Chair Paul Watts

My report starts with the sad news of the death of our President Neil Rhind MBE FSA on 10 February 2024 just after his 87th birthday, which was also the 87th anniversary of the formation of the Society.

He was a member of our committee from 1970-1993, Chairman from 1993-1998, Vice President from 1998-2016 and President from 2016-2024. Neil's wise counsel and advice will be missed. His knowledge and enthusiasm for local history was unparalleled. We are fortunate that his memory will live on in his work and many publications.

Turning to the Society's activities in 2023, we enjoyed a packed programme of more than 30 activities, including a very well attended talk, Forgotten Neighbours, on the remarkable residents of the old churchyard of St Margaret's Lee. We also held our third Kite Day on the Heath in October. The Architecture Group goes from strength to strength and ran a full programme of events.

In the Village, we again saw changes to local businesses with some closing, including the restaurant Copper & Ink and long-standing shoe shop Pares. The Talbot Place play area

opened, and the project was funded by a NCIL grant from Lewisham Council and a donation from the Balcombe Charitable Trust.

The Planning Group continued its important work and there were 700 local applications in 2023, including 364 for trees. All were looked at and we intervened in 49 cases. Major projects reviewed include the Leegate re-development which was approved after a 10-year wait.

The campaign to re-instate direct Charing Cross train services continued but there is more work to do. We have been able to make some progress on repairs and redecoration to the station, working with the rail companies and the Railway Heritage Trust, and work should be completed by summer 2024.

The Blackheath Joint Working Party started meeting again, under the chair of Greenwich councillors, and bids for the remaining community fund monies have been received.

Our archive team continued to be busy and this work will be much increased in the future, as we are the beneficiaries of much of Neil Rhind's archive which will need cataloguing and digitising over the next few years. Please do get in touch if you have relevant experience and would like to assist with this project.

We welcomed around 80 new members in 2023 and we held several new members' evenings to understand their interests. There are always opportunities for new and existing members to assist the Society in our many areas of activity.

I would like to conclude with my sincere thanks to our many volunteers, to my fellow trustees, and especially to our secretary Sacha Bright for her enthusiasm and dedication to the Society during the year.

NEIL RHIND

Our President Neil Rhind, who died last February aged 87, was simply Mr Blackheath. He devoted 55 years to your Society, was widely acknowledged as a leading local historian and writer and received many honours and accolades.

A journalist by training and a historian by inclination, he built an enormous archive concerning the history of local buildings, assembled a complete collection of publications and created detailed records of the local amenity societies.

Born in the same year as the founding of the Blackheath Society in 1937, he was our Chair for many years and became President in 2016.

As Secretary of the Blackheath Preservation Trust, in the 1970s he was centrally involved in raising funds and building support to prevent the demolition of Blackheath Halls and the Conservatoire. His direct involvement also saved many other architecturally outstanding Blackheath buildings.

He was awarded the Freedom of the Royal Borough of Greenwich in May 2017 and the Council held one minute's silence in his memory at its first



meeting after his death. The Greenwich Historical Society did the same at its first meeting.

For over 50 years he gave talks and conducted many local walks. His comprehensive knowledge of the local area was unmatched, and the three volumes of his Blackheath Village and its Environs, written over a period of 40 years, are the definitive works on this outstanding area of London.

The Society will be joining with Blackheath Halls in hosting a memorial event for Neil in the Halls in July. We also have a considerable responsibility, as the custodian of his enormous collection and output, to ensure that his work is made accessible for the future.

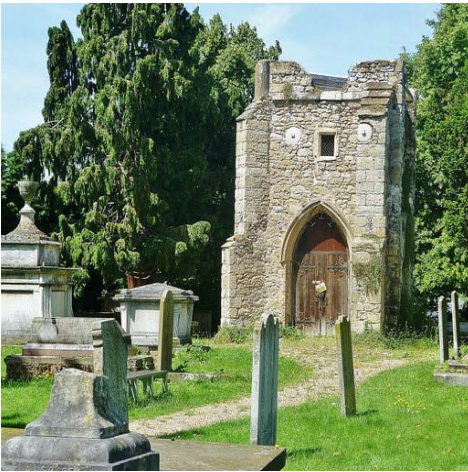
His wife Elizabeth sent this message: "Very many thanks to you and the committee of the Blackheath Society for the splendid tribute to Neil in the spring Newsletter. May I also through your pages attempt to acknowledge some of the enormous quantity of condolences received from friends and neighbours. There have been so many beautiful cards and eloquent letters - a tribute in themselves to the quality of life and friendship in Blackheath which Neil so much enjoyed."

Neil is profoundly missed by us all and the Society sends its sincere condolences to Elizabeth and all their family. Their son Iain and daughter Alexandra pre-deceased him.

EVENTS AND TALKS

We have continued to have a busy programme of events with many occasions for members to meet and chat.

The Forgotten Neighbours talk at St Margaret's Church about the interesting and varied inhabitants of the historic graveyard across the road was well attended. Highlights included dramatic readings connected to some of the churchyard residents (below) and a delightful lute performance of pieces by one resident, the royal court lutenist Daniel Bacheler.



We also joined Blackheath High School Alumnae for an evening to hear about the distinguished artist Jean Cooke who used to live in Blackheath.

The series of Walk & Talk events included visits to Covent Garden, Walbrook in the City and Maidenstone Hill, Greenwich. It was revealed in this last walk that there was an underwear factory in Point Hill which allowed many of their employees to work at home, so the trend since Covid is nothing new.

Many members enjoyed an exciting day at the Headquarters of the King's Royal Horse



Artillery Troop in Woolwich, where we were shown their meticulous work. The troop was impeccably turned out and enthusiastic riders and horses well-prepared for their ceremonial roles and performances.

During the cold weather we held some Zoom meetings. One was called Follies in the Garden and the Estate, which was full of remarkable and amusing facts and illustrations. And another academically focused Zoom concerned the Death of Marlowe, which concluded after some deliberation that the event was an accident.

The Society orchestrated the traditional events surrounding the turning on of the Christmas lights in the Village. These included Morris dancing, a vintage car show and the All Saint's School choir who led a charming procession singing carols. Father Christmas did the honours of the countdown to switching on the lights. It was unfortunate that a passing lorry and foxes later brought down the cables to the lights on the Christmas tree, but a solution will be found.

Thank you to all who contributed to making our events so successful.



Over 100 people attended our annual lecture in May last year by Neil Bingham on Patrick Gwynne, the architect of 10 Blackheath Park (seen above) and the subject of Bingham's new book. We enjoyed learning more about someone who designed some of the most extraordinary houses on the Cator Estate.

In June we welcomed back Magnus Englund and Leyla Daybelge for a talk on Walter Gropius, based on their Phaidon monograph.

This year we focused our events on the theme of reuse, retrofit and the book *The Sustainable City*. We visited the award-winning Chart Street Studios, by architect Ian Chalk in July and in November we went to Cork House by Nimtim Architects.

We saw a unique initiative in Waterloo - the offices of Feilden Fowles Architects alongside Waterloo City Farm. Its buildings are demountable and can be reused elsewhere.

We also toured the iconic Stock Orchard Street, or straw-bale house of 2001, by Jeremy Till and Sarah Wigglesworth. In March we visited Queens, Bayswater, by Stiff & Trevillion (above right) to hear a presentation on their practice and four recent projects, all examples of regeneration and reuse.

In October we were privileged to visit Ferry Street (below right) with its unique view

across the river towards Greenwich. This is a self-build project from the 1970s designed by Stout and Litchfield and built by Dr Michael Barraclough and his wife Jenny. They reused many materials that were becoming available with the redevelopment of Docklands.

For London's Open House we offered guided tours of modern buildings on the Cator Estate, a successful tour in its third year. In April we spent an away day in Brighton, visiting an 1820s Regency Town House and the 1935 Embassy Court. We took a walk along the beach front on the way back to the station to appreciate some other buildings.



PLANNING

Thanks to our very dedicated team of volunteers and Sacha's work in our office, we were able to scan over 700 planning applications covering Blackheath conservation areas, including 364 for tree work, and 43 were examined in detail.

Considerable time was also spent examining and responding to consultations by Greenwich and Lewisham councils on major policy issues. We commented extensively on the new Urban Design Guide for Greenwich and it was pleasing to see many of our comments accepted.

We are now engaged in commenting on a new Statement of Community Involvement for Greenwich, and a very welcome Developers Charter. The controversial consultation for the equivalent Statement for Lewisham has concluded and been finalised.

Our work on planning applications falls into three main categories: applications for building in the local conservation areas,



trees and work on major projects proposed for the periphery of Blackheath.

We can be very pleased with the outcome on the first category, as both councils mainly supported our comments by refusing inappropriate applications or requiring amendments and conditions, such as in Morden Road and on the insensitive proposals for an important modern property at 2 Foxes Dale.

In terms of larger projects we had less success and here the drive for more housing units tends to overwhelm objections. We deployed considerable effort to assist in residents' efforts to obtain improvements to the Leegate scheme, ultimately without success as the project was approved.

Most disappointing was the outcome of a year-long battle, including very intensive liaison with local residents, to object to the construction by Greenwich Builds of seven affordable houses on Richmount Gardens in the conservation area (below left).

It is a tribute to the quality and depth of opposition that the scheme was reduced in scale. But we felt it still involved significant harm to the conservation area and the local community.

The scheme was approved in a very close vote, setting a poor precedent. The fate of the important William Mitchell mural in the community centre there is at this point still not clear.

We are currently awaiting the resolution of important schemes for the Post Office in the Village, the new Bowls Club in Blackheath Park and for progress following the consultation on the future of the Blackheath station car park.

An enhanced feature of our work is our efforts on enforcement, where resources all round are stretched.

TRANSPORT

Over the past year we have engaged with Steve White, Managing Director of Southeastern Railway, reiterating our demand for restoration of a second off-peak direct service from Blackheath to Charing Cross and Waterloo.

This is what the customers want and the request is supported by the fact that levels of off-peak usage have returned to pre-pandemic levels.

But commuter demand remains well below these levels and this confirms the perversity of running direct services during the peak periods but not in the off- peaks when demand is strong.

We have not yet won this second service to Charing Cross, but there is an encouraging sentence in Steve White's latest letter to the Society in which he says: "Looking further forward ahead to our December 2024 timetable and beyond, we would like to run more direct Bexleyheath services to Charing Cross but that is dependent upon funding".

We will have three very minor positives for the Bexleyheath line in the June timetable: late evening services on Saturdays will run from Charing Cross instead of Cannon Street, off-peak timings of trains to London Bridge will be slightly more even and Victoria line trains will be extended to Gravesend. We will continue to press our case into next year with no let-up in pressure.

The Society has also been working this year with Southeastern Railway, Network Rail and the Railway Heritage Trust to fund the restoration and repainting of Blackheath Station. We are delighted to report that all the funding is now in place and work on the platforms has already started.

The platforms are the responsibility of Network Rail, which is replacing all their badly damaged valences, and Southeastern

will paint the front of the station, the booking office and waiting room.

The Railway Heritage Trust has advised about the new heritage look to the station, which will be painted in dark green and cream colours, similar to those seen in the photograph below.



The unique features of Blackheath station will also be maintained, and this iconic presentation will be fitting for our Grade 2 listed building, which will celebrate its 175th birthday soon, as it opened on 30 July 1849.

Once the works are completed we will re-attach the weight sign at the station entrance, which the Society recently recovered after it had been stolen a few years ago. We are looking forward to seeing the results.

This year's archive report is overshadowed by the sad death of Neil Rhind, without whom the archive would not exist. Neil used the foundations laid by A.R. Martin, himself a gifted photographer and brilliant chronicler of Blackheath who died in 1974, to build and preserve a unique record of buildings, people, events, news reports, magazines and journalistic articles of the area.

His unparalleled three volumes "Blackheath Village & Environs," begun in the 1970s will be familiar to most members. He was working on the 4th when he died 50 years later, The 30 years between successive volumes (number 3 was promised for 1994 and it appeared in 2024) was the source of much comment and humour, not least by Neil, which he shrugged off characteristically, saying it was nearly 99% finished.



He was a perfectionist, never satisfied that his work was complete, always conscious that updating was required, and with an eagle eye for factual error or grievous typographical misprints. He was mortified that "anschluss" was misspelt in one of his publications. Not just a perfectionist, Neil was a workaholic.

Few are familiar with his "Blackheath Names - an index of Blackheath people and their

addresses from 1691 to 1940" which is a compilation of 54,000 names. Many may have forgotten his "Blackheath Art & Music: the centenary of the Blackheath Concert Hall 1895-1995" for which he listed all the performers and the dates of their appearance since its opening night - a mere 3,764 items.

Even fewer will know of the list he compiled of 450 or so Blackheath donors to the Distressed Irish Clergy Fund in 1836, the list of members of the Blackheath Golf Club from 1766 to 1923 and the one of the New Cross Turnpike Trustees from the 18th century.

Neil's compilations were not just mere abstract Blackheath collections but they became the factual basis of numerous walks, talks and lectures that he gave on the area he loved so much. At the last count, he conducted more than 90 walks and talks, displaying not only his erudition but his humorous and occasionally caustic wit. He also contributed regularly to local magazines, with 140 articles identified so far.

So where does this leave the archive? Without Neil, no archive would exist. We will continue to do his life's work justice by making his research available to all, and we have made a decent stab at this so far.

At the latest count, we have over 50,000 items on the website - magazines he collected, articles he wrote, images he took himself or bought from eBay, films of his talks - particularly six short films of the interview by Julian Watson on his life works.

As has often been reported, the process of cataloguing, scanning and digitising is a slow one, but we will continue to make sure that the results of his works become increasingly accessible on www.blackheatharchive.org, the sister website to the Society's main site at www.blackheath.org. Neil's work, like Martin's, will never be forgotten.

TREASURER'S REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The The Society's results on unrestricted funds showed income and endowments of £61,828 (2022: £62,437) and expenditure of £63,803 (2022: £59,062), giving a small net deficit on unrestricted funds of £1,975 for the year (2022: surplus of £3,375).

This is in line with our budget strategy to aim to more or less break even on normal activities during any year.

The gains/losses on revaluation of fixed assets are unrealised and relate to the movement in the Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund) which showed a loss of £3,949 (2022: loss £9,913).

There was no change to the valuation of Tranquil Hall in 2023, after a 2022 gain of £20,000. Restricted funds consist of the balance of the Blackheath Joint Working Party Community Fund of £24,840 and £1,081 remaining for the Talbot Place play area.

The Charifund investments, included in fixed assets, were held at £164,106 (£168,055 in 2022) and generated income for the year of £9,778 (£9,492 in 2022).

We continued to hold a property investment asset, the freehold of Tranquil Hall in Blackheath Village, which was revalued in 2022 and continues to be held at £410,000 in the accounts (2022: £410,000).

It is rented to Heath House, a local preparatory school.

The Society's total funds were £628,281 at 31 December 2023 (2022: £644,730) and we remain in a strong financial position.

The Society's annual income is derived from members' subscriptions, donations,

investment income and rental income received from Tranquil Hall. The aim is to ensure annual running costs are controlled carefully and are met from annual income and that budgets are set accordingly.

Expenditure on additional projects and activities is generally funded by reserves, donations, or specific gifts for projects.

Membership saw an increase to 969 households (889 in 2022). The membership fee remained at £20 per year for 2023, unchanged since 2018.

The Society continued much of its work to provide in person Walk and Talks and other events for members. All money received to support these projects and the relevant expenditure is shown under our unrestricted funds in the accounts.

Our activities include those of the Architecture Group, which hosted a number of well-attended and well-received events.

For special projects, external grants and donations are sought and raised wherever possible, but always in conjunction with the use of the Society's own designated funds.

The Society's Trustees regularly review our requirements for reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation.

It is considered vital to hold sufficient unrestricted financial reserves to protect the Society from the risk of insolvency and from serious disruption to its work, and to enable it to mount any major campaign thought appropriate.

The Trustees therefore consider that the reserves held were at an appropriate level at 31 December 2023.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted (£)	Restricted (£)	Total 31 December 2023 (£)	Total 31 December 2022 (£)
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations and legacies	13,195	2,735	15,930	43,771
Charitable activities	8,233	-	8,233	8,921
Investment income	40,400	-	40,400	39,525
Donation from predecessor Charity	-	-	-	631,463
Fees and supplies	-	-	-	1,120
Total income	61,828	2,735	64,563	724,800
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Charitable activities	(63,803)	(13,260)	(77,063)	(90,157)
Total expenditure	(63,803)	(13,260)	(77,063)	(90,157)
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	20,000
Gains/losses on revaluation of fixed assets for charity's own use	(3,949)	-	(3,949)	(9,913)
Net (expenditure)/income	(5,924)	(10,525)	(16,449)	644,730
Gross transfers between funds	(342)	342	-	-
Net movement in funds	(6,266)	(10,183)	(16,449)	644,730
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	608,326	36,404	644,730	-
Total funds carried forward	602,060	26,221	628,281	644,730

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

Registration number 1196292

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
FIXED ASSETS		
Investments	574,106	578,055
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stocks	7,121	8,328
Debtors	7,411	9,935
Cash at bank and in hand	82,486	70,441
	<u>97,018</u>	<u>88,704</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(42,159)</u>	<u>(21,112)</u>
Net current assets	<u>54,859</u>	<u>67,592</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	628,965	645,647
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(684)	(917)
Net assets	<u>628,281</u>	<u>644,730</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:		
Restricted income funds		
Restricted funds	26,221	36,404
Unrestricted income funds		
Unrestricted funds	<u>602,060</u>	<u>608,326</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>628,281</u>	<u>644,730</u>

KITE DAY

A near perfect combination of sunshine and just enough wind made the 2023 Blackheath Society Kite Day, held in October, probably the best since it was relaunched in its current format in 2021, after a gap of many years.

An estimated 2,000 people came to enjoy the day, admire the giant demonstration kites, fly their own and picnic in the sunshine. This looks set to become a favourite annual event and planning is already under way for Sunday October 13 this year, weather permitting.

The Kent Kite Flyers, an enthusiasts' group from the coast, once again provided a spectacle of giant kites, including flying teddies and an astronaut, as well as selling kites from their stand and helping novices to fly them. Ballast bags to anchor the kites were donated by J Hearnden Skip Hire.

The Mir family kindly provided small paper kites for the children. Dr Azhar Mir demonstrated some traditional Asian kite fighting and the tricky manoeuvre of capturing a balloon with a kite.

Children from Grinling Gibbons Primary School, Deptford, once again delighted us with their steelpan band and we all appreciated their enthusiasm and musical talent, as well as the support of their teachers and parents. We hope to see them again this year.

Free rides at Botton's Family Funfair were generously provided as a thank you to the musicians after their performance and, as ever, the Society is grateful to Jimmy Botton and his family for their help and support. We are also grateful for the help from our numerous volunteers at this event.

The Talbot Place natural play area for under-fives, a volunteer project endorsed by the Blackheath Society, was also launched on Kite Day, with bubbles, pavement chalks and refreshments. The groundwork was completed with the help of grants

from Lewisham Council and the Balcombe Charitable Trust.



THE VILLAGE

Blackheath has welcomed plenty of new independent stores in the past year.

We now have a fishmongers, Rockpool, and a revived Blackheath Butchers, which this year is celebrating its 100 years on a single use site in the Village.

We welcomed the new Cafe East and Panas on Montpelier Vale, Buzz Cafe at the train station and Prosecco on Royal Parade.

Lark is offering clothes and gifts on Montpelier Vale and, tucked away on Brigade Street, is Treowe design and interiors.

Of course there have also been some closures, particularly the Copper & Ink restaurant, However, the Barclays Bank site is due to re-open as a beauty clinic and we are waiting to see who is taking over Pares Shoes.

Supporting our local shops and restaurants is key to maintaining a vibrant Village and we hope all our members will continue to enjoy what they have to offer.

SOCIETY MANAGEMENT

PRESIDENT

Neil Rhind MBE (2016 to 10 February 2024)

TRUSTEES

CHAIR

Paul Watts

VICE-CHAIR

Dame Helen Reeves

TREASURER

Andrew Westbrook FCA

John Bartram

Allan Griffin

Sarah Mansfield

Nick Patton

Nicola Peers

John Schofield

Howard Shields

Diane Summers

Ana Sutherland

David Walker

Liz Wright

SECRETARY

Sacha Bright

The Blackheath Society. A Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Registered Charity number 1196292.

PHOTO CREDITS

We would like to thank Thomas Sutherland, son of Society trustee Ana, for his photograph of Blackheath seen on the front and back covers this year. His portfolio of aerial drone images can be seen on www.thomasfranciscosut.wixsite.com/ts-drone-photography.

We would also like to thank Jonathan Causer for his photograph of Neil Rhind on page 4. The station photograph on page 8 came from the Railway Heritage Trust. All the other photographs were taken by our Trustees or came from the Society's own archive.

The annual report was produced by John Bartram and designed by Pippa Stanton.



Tranquil Vale seen in a 1905 archive photograph



Charity registration number: 1196292

The Blackheath Society

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
London
SE3 0RB

The Blackheath Society

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The Blackheath Society

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Paul Watts Dame Helen Reeves Andrew Westbrook John Bartram Allan Griffin Sarah Mansfield Nicholas Patton Nicola Peers John Schofield Howard Shields Diane Summers Ana Sutherland David Walker Elizabeth Wright
Secretary	Sacha Bright
Chair	Paul Watts
Vice - Chair	Dame Helen Reeves
Treasurer	Andrew Westbrook
President	Neil Rhind (died 10 February 2024)
Vice-Presidents	David Quarmby Tony Aldous Lord Stone of Blackheath
Charity Registration Number	1196292
Principal Office	The Old Bakehouse 11 Blackheath Village Blackheath London SE3 9LA
Independent Examiner	Field Sullivan Limited 9 Hare & Billet Road Blackheath London SE3 ORB

The Blackheath Society

Trustees' Report

Trustee's Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

Chair's report

My report starts with the sad news of the death of our President, Neil Rhind MBE FSA on 10 February 2024, just after his 87th birthday and the 87th anniversary of the formation of the Society. A full tribute to Neil has been published in our Spring 2024 newsletter and there will be a celebration of his life at an event at Blackheath Halls in the Summer. He was a member of the Society's committee from 1970-1993, Chairman from 1993-1998, Vice President from 1998-2016 and President from 2016-2024. Neil's wise counsel and advice will be missed. He made an immense contribution to the Blackheath and Greenwich areas and his knowledge and enthusiasm for local history was unparalleled. We are fortunate that his memory will live on in his work and many publications.

Turning to the Society's activities in 2023, we enjoyed a packed programme of over 30 activities including a very well attended talk "Forgotten Neighbours" on the remarkable residents of the Old Churchyard of St Margaret's Lee. We also held our third Kite Day on the Heath in October. The architecture group goes from strength to strength and ran a full programme of events.

In the Village, we again saw changes to local businesses with some closing, including the restaurant Copper and Ink and long-standing shoe shop Pares. We welcome new businesses and run regular features in our newsletter on them. The Talbot Place play area opened, and the Society worked with the Friends of the Blackheath Play Area and local councillors on the project which was funded by a NCIL grant from Lewisham Council and a donation from the Balcombe Charitable Trust.

The planning group, which has ten volunteers who examine issues of planning policy and scrutinise all applications in our area, continued its important work. There were 700 local planning applications in 2023 (including 264 for trees), all were looked at and we intervened in 49 cases. Major projects reviewed include the Leigate re-development which was approved after a 10 year wait.

The Society unfortunately lost the Golden Elephant trophy in the annual cricket match against the Greenwich Society in a delayed fixture in early September.

The campaign to re-instate direct Charing Cross train services continued, with a modest success with an hourly Charing Cross off-peak service being reinstated from May 2023, but there is more work to do. We have been able to make some progress on repairs and redecoration to the Station, working with the rail companies and the Railway Heritage Trust and work should be completed by Summer 2024.

The Blackheath Joint Working Party has started meeting again, under the chair of Greenwich councillors and bids for the remaining community fund monies have been received. The annual Heath clean-up day in October working with members, local councillors, and other volunteers was another great success.

Our archive team continued to be busy digitising much material and benefited from the donation of further collections during the year, this work will be much increased in the future as we are the beneficiaries of much of Neil Rhind's archive which will need cataloguing and digitising over the next few years – please do get in touch if you have relevant experience and would like to assist with this project.

We continued to attract new people and welcomed around 80 new members in 2023. We held several new members' evenings to understand interests and there are always opportunities for both new and existing members to assist the Society in its many areas of activity.

I would like to conclude with my sincere thanks to our many volunteers, to my fellow Trustees, and especially to our secretary Sacha Bright for her enthusiasm and dedication to the Society during the year.

The Blackheath Society

Trustees' Report (continued)

Financial review

The Society's results on unrestricted funds, before gains or losses on investment assets, was a deficit of £1,975 (2022: surplus of £3,375).

The Society's annual income, mainly from membership fees and investment income, covers routine office and other overheads. Expenditure on additional projects and activities is generally funded by reserves or from donations and other sources.

Membership saw an increase to 969 households (2022: 889) The membership fee remains at £20 per annum for 2022 and has been unchanged since 2018.

The Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund) Investments included within fixed assets was held at £164,106 (2022: £168,055). The Charifund investments generated income for the year of £9,778 (2022: £9,492).

We continued to hold a property investment asset, the freehold of Tranquil Hall in Blackheath Village, which was revalued in 2022 and continues to be held at £410,000 in the accounts (2022: £410,000) and is rented to Heath House, a local Preparatory School.

The Society's total funds were £628,281 at 31 December 2023 (2022: £644,730) and we remain in a strong financial position.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees regularly review the Society's requirements for reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation.

The annual income of the Society is derived from members' subscriptions, donations, investment income and from the rental income received on Tranquil Hall.

The Trustees aim to ensure that annual running costs are controlled carefully and are met from annual income, and that budgets are set accordingly. In the case of special projects, external grants and donations are sought and raised wherever possible, but always in conjunction with the use of the Society's own designated funds.

The possibility always exists that a situation might arise where the Trustees would feel it right to incur significant professional and other costs to meet the objects of the Society. For these reasons, it is considered vital to hold sufficient unrestricted financial reserves to be drawn on in periods of emergency and cash-flow difficulty to protect the Society from the risk of insolvency and from serious disruption to its work, and to enable it to mount any major campaign thought appropriate.

The Trustees therefore consider that the reserves held are at an appropriate level at 31 December 2023.

Appointment, recruitment, and election of Trustees

Management Committee members (Trustees) are appointed in accordance with the Society's Rules, and comprise not less than 10 and not more than 15 members who may be elected at a general meeting or co-opted by the Management Committee. All members of the Society are eligible to stand for appointment, and other than the Chair (whose maximum term is two consecutive terms of three years), one-third of all Trustees must retire from office at each AGM but may stand for re-appointment. Copies of the Rules are available from the Secretary.

The Blackheath Society

Trustees' Report (continued)

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's objectives and activities and in the planning of future activities. It is the judgement of the Trustees that activities in pursuit of the above objectives fully meet the public benefit test, which they have kept in mind in planning programmes for the charity. In delivering services and in the appointment of staff, volunteers and trustees the charity operates a strict policy of no discrimination on any grounds.

Risk Management

The Trustees regularly review the major risks to which the Society is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks that the Society faces. Internal control risks are minimised by the operation of procedures for the authorisation of all transactions and projects, and through the use of a risk register that is reviewed regularly by the Trustees.

Investment Policy

The Trustees adopt a prudent policy and surplus funds are currently held in bank deposit accounts, invested in Charifund units. The Charifund income for the year was £9,778 representing a yield of 5.95% (2022: 5.67%) on a closing valuation of £164,106.

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	Paul Watts
	Dame Helen Reeves
	Andrew Westbrook
	John Bartram
	Allan Griffin
	Sarah Mansfield
	Nicholas Patton
	Nicola Peers
	John Schofield
	Howard Shields
	Diane Summers
	Ana Sutherland
	David Walker
	Elizabeth Wright
Chair:	Paul Watts
Vice - Chair:	Dame Helen Reeves
Secretary:	Sacha Bright

The Blackheath Society

Trustees' Report (continued)

Treasurer: Andrew Westbrook
President: Neil Rhind (died 10 February 2024)
Vice-Presidents: David Quarmby
Tony Aldous
Lord Stone of Blackheath

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on^{7/6/24} and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Paul Watts
Chair and trustee

The Blackheath Society

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Blackheath Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

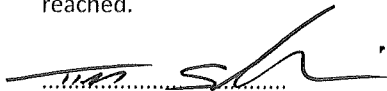
An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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



Tim Sullivan FCA
Field Sullivan Chartered Accountants
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
London
SE3 ORB

Date: 10/1/24

The Blackheath Society

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 31 December 2023 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 31 December 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	13,195	2,735	15,930	12,871	30,900	43,771
Charitable activities	4	8,233	-	8,233	8,921	-	8,921
Investment income	5	40,400	-	40,400	39,525	-	39,525
Donation from predecessor charity	6	-	-	-	599,864	31,599	631,463
Fees and supplies	6	-	-	-	1,120	-	1,120
Total income		61,828	2,735	64,563	662,301	62,499	724,800
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	(63,803)	(13,260)	(77,063)	(59,062)	(31,095)	(90,157)
Total expenditure		(63,803)	(13,260)	(77,063)	(59,062)	(31,095)	(90,157)
Gains/losses on investment assets		-	-	-	20,000	-	20,000
Gains/losses on revaluation of fixed assets for charity's own use		(3,949)	-	(3,949)	(9,913)	-	(9,913)
Net (expenditure)/income		(5,924)	(10,525)	(16,449)	613,326	31,404	644,730
Gross transfers between funds		(342)	342	-	(5,000)	5,000	-
Net movement in funds		(6,266)	(10,183)	(16,449)	608,326	36,404	644,730
Total funds brought forward		608,326	36,404	644,730	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward	20	602,060	26,221	628,281	608,326	36,404	644,730

The notes on pages 10 to 20 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Blackheath Society

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2022 is shown in note 20.

The notes on pages 10 to 20 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Blackheath Society
(Registration number: 1196292)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	14	574,106	578,055
Current assets			
Stocks	15	7,121	8,328
Debtors	16	7,411	9,935
Cash at bank and in hand	17	<u>82,486</u>	<u>70,441</u>
		97,018	88,704
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>(42,159)</u>	<u>(21,112)</u>
Net current assets		<u>54,859</u>	<u>67,592</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		628,965	645,647
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	19	<u>(684)</u>	<u>(917)</u>
Net assets		<u>628,281</u>	<u>644,730</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		26,221	36,404
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>602,060</u>	<u>608,326</u>
Total funds	20	<u>628,281</u>	<u>644,730</u>

The financial statements on pages 7 to 20 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 7/6/24 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Paul Watts
Trustee



.....
Andrew Westbrook
Trustee

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1 Charity status

The charity is domiciled in England and Wales.

The address of its registered office is:

The Old Bakehouse
11 Blackheath Village
Blackheath

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) was incorporated on 27 October 2021 and took over the business of the Blackheath Society from 1 January 2022.

2 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Second edition October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

The Blackheath Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

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

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Furniture and equipment	15% straight line basis

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Investment properties

Investment property is carried at fair value, derived from the current market prices for comparable real estate determined annually by external valuers. The valuers use observable market prices, adjusted if necessary for any difference in the nature, location or condition of the specific asset. Changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss.

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out (FIFO).

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;				
Donations	163	2,435	2,598	305
LB Lewisham	-	-	-	500
LBL Beacon	-	-	-	1,000
Christmas lights	-	300	300	20,900
Balcombe Charitable Trust	-	-	-	8,500
Annual subscriptions	12,729	-	12,729	12,218
Life subscriptions	303	-	303	348
	<u>13,195</u>	<u>2,735</u>	<u>15,930</u>	<u>43,771</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Event income	5,581	5,581	4,669
Sale of publications and cards	2,652	2,652	4,252
	<u>8,233</u>	<u>8,233</u>	<u>8,921</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Bank interest and dividends	10,400	10,400	9,525
Income from investment properties	30,000	30,000	30,000
	<u>40,400</u>	<u>40,400</u>	<u>39,525</u>

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

6 Other income

	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Transfer from predecessor charity	-	-	631,463
Fees and supplies	-	-	1,120
	-	-	632,583
	-	-	632,583

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

		Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Event expenses		2,650	7,419	10,069	9,550
Christmas lights		-	5,841	5,841	20,401
Christmas cards		690	-	690	937
Rent and service charge		10,515	-	10,515	9,723
Books		1,208	-	1,208	1,066
Newsletter and annual report		3,155	-	3,155	2,690
Rubbish bins on the Heath		-	-	-	7,201
Staff costs	10	25,310	-	25,310	24,047
Support costs	8	20,275	-	20,275	14,542
		63,803	13,260	77,063	90,157
		63,803	13,260	77,063	90,157

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

8 Analysis of support costs

Support costs

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Insurance	1,524	297
Office expenses	269	774
Donations	2,000	-
Bank charges	86	92
Other charges	100	42
Staff training	322	-
Computer software and maintenance	3,040	3,000
Printing, postage and telephone	698	1,125
Sundries	483	567
AGM costs	364	300
Independent examination	2,364	2,298
Bookkeeping	2,125	2,050
Legal and professional	6,900	3,997
	<u>20,275</u>	<u>14,542</u>

9 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	21,708	20,633
Pension costs	3,602	3,414
	<u>25,310</u>	<u>24,047</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

11 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

12 Related party transactions

The donation of £2,000 was a contribution to a book being published by Ana Sutherland.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2023	<u>2,082</u>	<u>2,082</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>2,082</u>	<u>2,082</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2023	<u>2,082</u>	<u>2,082</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>2,082</u>	<u>2,082</u>
Net book value		
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

14 Fixed asset investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Investment properties	410,000	410,000
Other investments	<u>164,106</u>	<u>168,055</u>
	<u>574,106</u>	<u>578,055</u>

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Investment properties

	Investment properties £
Cost or Valuation	
At 1 January 2023	410,000
At 31 December 2023	410,000
Provision	
At 31 December 2023	-
Net book value	
At 31 December 2023	410,000
At 31 December 2022	410,000

The freehold property, Tranquil Hall, was bequeathed to the Society in 1975 and is held as investment property. The original value of the property on acquisition was £12,500. The property was revalued by Baxter Phillips on 31 December 2022 at £410,000 as market value, and agreed on as a suitable valuation at 31 December 2023 by the trustees.

Other investments

	Unlisted investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 January 2023	168,055	168,055
Revaluation	(3,949)	(3,949)
At 31 December 2023	164,106	164,106
Net book value		
At 31 December 2023	164,106	164,106
At 31 December 2022	168,055	168,055

Other investments at 31 December 2023 comprise 11,436 units of M&G Investments Charifund units.

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

15 Stock

	2023	2022
	£	£
Stocks	7,121	8,328

16 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Prepayments	-	97
Other debtors	7,411	9,838
	7,411	9,935

17 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash on hand	10	-
Cash at bank	82,476	70,441
	82,486	70,441

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other creditors	30,130	7,500
Accruals	2,524	4,038
Deferred income	9,505	9,574
	42,159	21,112

19 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income	684	917

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

20 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	608,326	61,828	(63,803)	(342)	(3,949)	602,060
Restricted funds						
OnBlackheath	22,405	2,435	-	-	-	24,840
Christmas Lights	5,499	300	(5,841)	342	-	300
Talbot Place	8,500	-	(7,419)	-	-	1,081
	<u>36,404</u>	<u>2,735</u>	<u>(13,260)</u>	<u>342</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,221</u>
Total funds	<u>644,730</u>	<u>64,563</u>	<u>(77,063)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,949)</u>	<u>628,281</u>
	Balance at 27 October 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Unrestricted funds						
General funds	<u>599,864</u>	<u>62,437</u>	<u>(59,062)</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>10,087</u>	<u>608,326</u>
Restricted funds						
OnBlackheath	31,599	-	(9,194)	-	-	22,405
Christmas lights	-	20,900	(20,401)	5,000	-	5,499
Platinum Jubilee Beacon Event	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-	-
Kite day	-	500	(500)	-	-	-
Talbot Place	-	8,500	-	-	-	8,500
	<u>31,599</u>	<u>30,900</u>	<u>(31,095)</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,404</u>
Total funds	<u>631,463</u>	<u>93,337</u>	<u>(90,157)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,087</u>	<u>644,730</u>

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

OnBlackheath - these amounts represent monies received from the on Blackheath festivals in 2018 and earlier to be used on communtiy projects on the heath that have been proposed by the Blackheath Joint Working Party.

Christmas Lights - to arrange 'Blackheath Xmas Lights' for the village.

Talbot Place - to be used for the Talbot Place play area.

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 December 2023 £
Fixed asset investments	574,106	-	574,106
Current assets	70,797	26,221	97,018
Current liabilities	(42,159)	-	(42,159)
Creditors over 1 year	(684)	-	(684)
Total net assets	602,060	26,221	628,281
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 December 2022 £
Fixed asset investments	578,055	-	578,055
Current assets	52,300	36,404	88,704
Current liabilities	(21,112)	-	(21,112)
Creditors over 1 year	(917)	-	(917)
Total net assets	608,326	36,404	644,730

THE BLACKHEATH SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 1196292

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT

2022 / 2023



WHAT DOES THE BLACKHEATH SOCIETY DO?

The Society can claim many achievements since its foundation in 1937. We work with local councils, residents, amenity groups, traders, police and national bodies - with everyone who can contribute to the enhancement of Blackheath

We aim to preserve and enhance for the benefit of the public the features of Blackheath of particular beauty or historical

and architectural interest; to protect its open spaces from disfigurement or encroachment, particularly the Heath; to encourage high standards of planning and architecture in its new buildings; to promote improvements to the amenities of the area and to encourage appreciation of its character and history.

BLACKHEATH VILLAGE

We work with other community organisations and local traders to enhance the Village and organise and support local events, such as talks and visits to places of local interest.

THE HEATH

We work to preserve the health and enjoyment of the Heath and oppose commercial exploitation and damage from overuse.

TRAFFIC AND TRAVEL

We monitor major developments that have an effect on the traffic in Blackheath. We campaign for better railway and bus services and for station improvements.

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION

We encourage good modern design, while preserving our existing heritage. We scrutinise planning proposals, advise local councils and appear at public inquiries.

HISTORY AND EDUCATION / EVENTS

We maintain a unique archive of more than 20,000 images of Blackheath. We sponsor talks, exhibitions and publications about the history of the area, organise local walks and publish guides.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

JOIN THE SOCIETY

Keep up to date with local news and have a voice in future developments..

JOIN OUR ACTIVITIES

Whether you have expertise in our areas of interest or time to give practical help, along with other people involved in Village life.

For general information and advice on matters concerning the activities and work of The Society apply to:

The Secretary, The Blackheath Society,
Studio 2, The Old Bakehouse,
11 Blackheath Village, London, SE3 9LA

- 📞 020 8297 1937
- ✉ office@blackheath.org
- 🌐 www.blackheath.org
- 📘 [BlackheathSociety](https://www.facebook.com/BlackheathSociety)
- 🐦 [@BlackheathSoc](https://twitter.com/BlackheathSoc)



ANNUAL REPORT

2022 / 2023

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CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION



Society Chair Paul Watts

I am pleased to present the first annual report of our new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) structure. Last year was the 85th anniversary of the formation of the Society in 1937 and I very much hope that our founders and original trustees would look favourably on the continued activities of the Society in what has been another very active year.

As you will read later in this annual report, our events team produced a full programme of walks and talks and we welcomed the architecture group, whose events are a great addition to our range of activities. We lit a beacon on the Heath to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June and held our second Kite Day there in October, when we also planted our Queen Elizabeth II Oak in memory of Her Majesty.

In the Village, we saw several changes to local businesses with some closing, including our last bank, Barclays, and we welcomed new enterprises. We ran a successful fund-raising campaign to pay for new Christmas lights for the Village and are grateful for the support of many local businesses.

The planning group, with ten volunteers who examine issues of planning policy and scrutinise all applications in our area, continued its important work. There were 668 applications in 2022 (350 in Greenwich and 318 in Lewisham). All were looked at and 85 examined in detail

A major campaign was launched in the autumn when we learnt of Southeastern's changes to its rail timetable, with all off-peak services at Blackheath terminated at Cannon Street, rather than Charing Cross. The Blackheath Joint Working Party had a quieter year, as its former chair stood down. We are actively encouraging Greenwich and Lewisham Councils to reinstate regular meetings of this important group. Our archive team was busy, digitising much material and it benefited from the donation of further collections during the year.

We welcomed 95 new members, some as a result of the rail campaign. We held several new members' evenings, and there are always opportunities for both new and existing members to assist the society in its activities. I would like to conclude with my sincere thanks to our volunteers, to my fellow trustees, and especially to our secretary Sacha Bright for her enthusiasm and dedication to the Society during the year.

TRANSPORT

By far the greatest transport issue in the last year has been, and still is, the loss of our off-peak direct train services to Charing Cross and Waterloo which was brought in with no consultation in Southeastern Railways' December timetable.

This is the most detrimental action imposed by any of the train operating companies over the past 150 years, but no reason for the lack of consultation was given and the Department for Transport considered this to be a minor adjustment to the timetable. The Society immediately mounted a campaign.

We leafleted at stations and on trains on the Bexleyheath line and the Charlton section of the North Kent line, alerting travelers who may not be aware of the imminent changes, and urging them to email the Managing Director of Southeastern Railways, Steve White, to object vigorously.

We challenged Southeastern on the absence of the required Equalities Impact Assessment before the change was announced and assessed the legal possibilities of redress given the absence of consultation and of the timely publication of the EIA.

We then alerted Blackheath Hospital and the Halls, the Clarendon Hotel, schools and Village shops to the changes to warn them how they might affect their users and staff in travelling to and from Waterloo and Charing Cross. We also alerted Society members and the general public through our website and social media, urging them to object.

During a Westminster Hall parliamentary debate in December all MPs in the affected constituencies spoke forcefully against the changes, as the loss of the off-peak direct services on the Bexleyheath line was only one of a range of detrimental impacts.

The minister promised to visit one or more stations to hear firsthand the public

response, and he also promised a full consultation with Southeastern during the development of the May timetable. Neither of these two promises has been fulfilled. Southeastern has claimed that delays at the crossover at Lewisham station (*below*) was behind the changes.



Shortly before the May timetable was announced Southeastern said that, in response to the very high level of objections from Bexleyheath line users, one direct service per hour to Charing Cross and Waterloo would be reintroduced off peak. This is a welcome first step but we will continue to press for the full restoration of all off-peak direct services to Charing Cross and Waterloo.

There is another piece of good news. Network Rail has completed work on the Kidbrooke railway bridge. It therefore no longer needs a weight restriction to protect the bridge and Lewisham council has reacted very positively to this development.

The council officer leading this issue said: "This is something the Council strongly supports and has been actively encouraging Transport for London to do. I have recently chased them on this matter to seek a decision and will continue to do so until the matter is resolved". (*See the Village story on page 8*).

EVENTS AND TALKS

We held many successful and enjoyable events this year of local and broader interest. Many members attended and they provided a good opportunity to meet friends and make new ones.

The regular Meet and Eat sessions continued at a local pub, The Princess of Wales, and we varied the days on which they were held so that members with regular commitments had an opportunity to come. The gatherings are very informal and we are always delighted to see whoever comes along.



We visited Blackheath Golf Club, which was a treat in a beautiful building at Eltham Lodge with a lovely setting and interesting history (seen above). The Let's Go Down the Strand walk reminded us of the many hidden jewels that form the history of that part of London.

And the walk round Waterloo and Lambeth illustrated vividly how this area of London has changed over the last 200 years, and continues to be vibrant. We also visited the ancient establishment of Charterhouse in the City, which is both surprising and an excellent example of how institutions adapt to change and survive.



Our Zoom series of talks included the History of Morden College, which prompted recollections from many members about former visits and the many changes that have taken place there. A fascinatingly detailed account of plumbing in the Victorian House proved to be an eye opener, particularly for members who live in such historic dwellings.

It was unfortunate that the Zoom talk on the local area in literature was spoilt by poor WiFi reception that evening, but we plan to reschedule this.

The talk on The History of The Mary Evans Picture Library (see picture above) gave us another opportunity for the Society to hold a joint event in Blackheath High School. It was remarkable to hear how the enthusiasm of Mary and Hilary Evans has created a truly eclectic and international collection.

As the annual report went to press, more walks and visits were planned for the summer and these are listed on the website. Thank you to all who contribute their time and energy to making the Society's events so enjoyable, interesting and varied. Your support is fully appreciated.

JUBILEE, KITE DAY & TREE PLANTING

It was a bumper year for large events led by the Society on the Heath, with an estimated 2,000 people celebrating the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June, followed by as many people enjoying our Kite Day in October.

A Jubilee concert was organised jointly by the Society and Blackheath Halls on a beautiful evening when seven local choirs of children and adults performed music representing the decades of the Queen's reign, ranging from classical and opera to musical theatre and gospel.

A dramatic two-metre high beacon was lit by the Young Mayor of Lewisham, representing a new generation engaging in public service.

Earlier in the day, local actor Nick Day took on the role of town crier, announcing the event with a tour around the village, shouting the official "Oyez, oyez" and ringing a dinner bell borrowed from a local school.

The Kite Day in October, now re-established by the Society as an annual event after a break of more than 12 years, enjoyed perfect weather with enough wind to launch some spectacular demonstration kites brought to the Heath by the Kent Kite Flyers, an enthusiasts' group from the coast.

The public were also encouraged to bring their own kites to fly and we saw some terrific examples, including homemade ones.

The talented children of Grinling Gibbons Primary School, Deptford, again entertained the crowds with their steelpan band (*see right*) and the Caribbean theme was picked up by the on-site caterers.

There was a special addition to the day, also organised by the Society, with the ceremonial planting of an oak tree at the eastern end of Royal Parade. The Queen Elizabeth II Oak commemorated the sad loss of Her Majesty in September and will be a permanent memorial to her long and dedicated reign.



PLANNING

Thanks to our dedicated team of volunteers and our secretary Sacha's work in the office, we were able to scan well over 600 planning applications last year, including those for tree work. They covered Lewisham and Greenwich and around 90 applications were subsequently examined in detail.

In addition to this regular effort, considerable time was spent examining and responding to consultations by both councils on major policy issues. In Lewisham we looked in detail at the new draft Local Plan. Our detailed response included a Vision for Blackheath and putting protected views from the Heath into the plan.

A separate and controversial consultation on Lewisham's new Statement of Community Involvement began in early 2023 and will be reported on next year. In Greenwich we responded in detail to its draft Urban Design Guide.

Our work on planning applications is in three main categories: applications for building in the local conservation areas, trees, and work on major projects proposed for the periphery of Blackheath.

We can be pleased with the outcome on the first category as both councils by and large supported our comments by refusing inappropriate applications or obtaining amendments and conditions.

These included an insensitive proposal for an important modern property at 2 Foxes Dale, also known as The House of Ideas; plans for inappropriate siting of very obtrusive phone masts; and approval for rebuilding the Tea Hut on the Heath.

We have also been involved in preliminary consultation for potential projects in the Village at the station car park and the sorting office behind the Post Office (*seen above*).



We objected strongly to consultation on a very inappropriate scheme to develop the pleasant green at Richmond Gardens for affordable housing. This has now materialised in a formal application which we are strongly resisting.

In terms of applications for work on trees, for which the policy and legal regime is much less helpful, we can be pleased that our efforts, particularly to object to felling of mature specimens, are successful - for example in The Plantation.

The main peripheral large proposed development in 2022 was at Leigate, where a formal application for a major complex including a 15-storey tower is being contested. This is currently in abeyance following new guidelines emanating from the Grenfell fire.

A significant newly controversial area is the 'retrofit' agenda. There is an urgent need to update planning guidelines and guidance on alterations permitted in conservation areas for improving household energy efficiency, and we are lobbying for early action on this.

The guidelines will have to be more pragmatic than those currently in force if the climate agenda is to be progressed.

THE VILLAGE

Despite recession fears and closures in UK high streets, Blackheath is a thriving place to eat, drink and shop. We may no longer have a bank, leaving two empty sites which are difficult to fill, but there have been plenty of newcomers.

We welcomed the following companies to the Village in the past year: Buddha Taste in Royal Parade; On the Heath, Pets Corner, Blackheath Creatives, Rockpool Fishmongers in Montpelier Vale; and 15 Grams Cafe and Jimmy Fairly Opticians in Tranquil Vale.

Nick Ellis (*seen below serving in the shop*) also became the new owner of John Charles Butchers next to the station.

This year we finally managed to buy new Christmas lights for the Village thanks to kind donations from local businesses. These are stored away and should last many years.



We have been working to try to reduce the amount of traffic moving through the Village and are pleased to report that the bridge works on the A212 in Kidbrooke Gardens have now been completed.

This means the 7.5 tonne weight restriction signs at the 3-way junction near Kidbrooke station can be removed, allowing heavy traffic to use the A road. These signs currently force HGVs to come through the B

road in the Village instead. We will be putting pressure on TfL to remove them and will report on this more fully in our next *Newsletter*.



We are pleased to announce that the missing weight sign from the entrance to the station (*seen below in an earlier photo*) has been traced and recovered, and we are working with the Network Rail to establish how it can be more securely fixed to the wall. We are urging the company to repair and repaint the front of the station and we will also report on these efforts in the next *Newsletter*.



A major step for the archive in the past year has been the acquisition of a new scanner which has enabled us to scan images previously too big for our A4 flatbed machine.

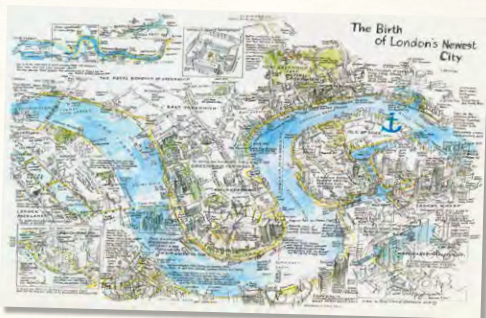
This is a top-down document and book scanner, capable of A3 scans, and so we have been able to add unconventionally sized copies of the *Blackheath Reporter* from the 1960s. There are now 2,973 pages on the website, published from 1959 to 1966 and 1986 to 1989. It has also given us the ability to scan the past 45 years of the Westcombe News, dating from the 1970s.



Records of the Friends of Greenwich Park have also been added to the website.

In addition to local publications, such as the one seen above, we have been able to scan two important new acquisitions for the Society - the Marten family album and the first minute book of the Westcombe Park Estate Co Ltd, covering 1877 to 1886, which Neil Rhind obtained earlier in the year.

Work has also begun on scanning the voluminous work of Peter Kent, the well-known local artist and documentarian of all riverside activity. He has contributed to local publications for the past 50 years.



Many of his drawings, with interesting commentaries, can be seen in the Blackheath local guides on our website. One of them, *The Birth of London's Newest City*, is above. His other work is being catalogued on our file maker database and so far we have scanned about 230 of his drawings.

Work continues on films of the history of the Society since it began in 1937, drawing on images from the archive for each decade to highlight pressing issues of the day. The first four decades are completed and work continues on the more recent past. These will shortly be added to the website, after some small edits suggested by a review group.

As has often been reported, the process of cataloguing, scanning and digitising is a slow one but we are happy that the results continue to be increasingly accessible on www.blackheatharchive.org, the sister website to the Society's www.blackheath.org. Over the past year, we are happy to say we have been able to add many more pages.

As reported last year, we know that the search facility for individual images on the site can be difficult to use and we are continuing to look for easier solutions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

This year is our first as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and the statement of financial activities shows the transfer of assets from the old Blackheath Society charity. The result on unrestricted funds includes £599,864 of assets transferred into the CIO on 1 January 2022.

After removing this transfer, unrestricted funds for the Society showed income and endowments of £62,437 and expenditure of £59,062, giving a net surplus on unrestricted funds of £3,375 for the year.

The gains/losses on revaluation of fixed assets relate to the movement in the Charifund investment (loss of £9,913) and the revaluation of Tranquil Hall (gain of £20,000).

Restricted funds for the year are substantially composed of the transfer of Blackheath Joint Working Party money of £22,405 and £8,500 for Talbot Place. During the current year the Society successfully raised money for the Village Christmas Lights campaign, £20,900 was donated by local businesses and the Society contributed £5,000.

The Society's annual income, mainly from membership fees and investment income, covers routine office and other overheads. Expenditure on additional projects and activities is generally funded by reserves, donations or specific gifts for projects.

Membership saw an increase to 889 households (855 in 2021) and this increased again to 935 in May 2023. The membership fee remained at £20 per year for 2022, unchanged since 2018.

The Society continued much of its work to provide in person 'Walk and Talks' and virtual events to members. All money received to support these projects and the relevant expenditure is shown under our unrestricted funds in the accounts.

This year our activities were further enhanced with the introduction of the Architecture Group, who joined us from the Blackheath Halls and hosted a number of well-attended and well-received events.

The Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund) Investments, included in fixed assets, was held at £168,055 (£177,968 in 2021). It generated income for the year of £9,492 (£8,469 in 2021).

We continued to hold a property investment asset, the freehold of Tranquil Hall in Blackheath Village, which was revalued in 2022 and is now held at £410,000 (£390,000 in 2021) in the accounts. The property is rented to Heath House, a local preparatory school.

The Society's total funds were £644,730 at 31 December 2022 (£631,463 in 2021) and we remain in a strong financial position.

The Society's Trustees regularly review our requirements for reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation. Our annual income is derived from members' subscriptions, donations, investment income and rental income received on Tranquil Hall.

They aim to ensure annual running costs are controlled carefully and are met from annual income, and that budgets are set accordingly. For special projects, external grants and donations are sought and raised wherever possible, but always in conjunction with the use of the Society's own designated funds.

It is considered vital to hold sufficient unrestricted financial reserves to protect the Society from the risk of insolvency and from serious disruption to its work, and to enable it to mount any major campaign thought appropriate. The Trustees therefore consider that the reserves held were at an appropriate level at 31 December 2022.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE PERIOD FROM 27 OCTOBER 2021 TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £	Comparatives From Predecessor Charity Total 2021 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations and legacies	12,871	30,900	43,771	38,732
Charitable activities	8,921	-	8,921	8,830
Investment income	39,525	-	39,525	28,469
Donation from predecessor Charity	599,864	31,599	631,463	-
Fees and supplies	1,120	-	1,120	1,600
Total income	662,301	62,499	724,800	77,631
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Charitable activities	(59,062)	(31,095)	(90,157)	(61,080)
Total expenditure	(59,062)	(31,095)	(90,157)	(61,080)
Gains/losses on revaluation of fixed assets for charity's own use	(9,913)	-	(9,913)	21,000
Gains/losses on investment assets	20,000	-	20,000	-
Net income	613,326	31,404	644,730	37,551
Gross transfers between funds	(5,000)	5,000	-	-
Net movement in funds	608,326	36,404	644,730	37,551
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	-	-	-	593,912
Total funds carried forward	608,326	36,404	644,730	631,463

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Registration number 1196292

	2022 (£)	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 (£)
FIXED ASSETS		
Investments	578,055	567,968
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stocks	8,328	6,972
Debtors	9,935	8,881
Cash at bank and in hand	70,441	59,952
	88,704	75,805
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(21,112)	(11,360)
Net current assets	67,592	64,445
Total assets less current liabilities	625,647	632,413
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(917)	(950)
Net assets	644,730	631,463
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:		
Restricted income funds		
Restricted funds	36,404	31,599
Unrestricted income funds		
Unrestricted funds	608,326	599,864
TOTAL FUNDS	644,730	631,463

ARCHITECTURE GROUP

At the start of last year the Blackheath Society took over the activities of the former architecture group of Blackheath Halls, founded in 1989.

In the first full year of our events with the Society we organised five guided tours to buildings and a talk at St Michael's Church.

Our visit to the Isokon building in Belsize Park on a sunny day in July was led by Magnus Englund, author and director of the Isokon Gallery.

We then visited the local Alms Gate development in Lee Road (*below*), led by the developer. It was excellent to be able to see how an historic set of buildings was refurbished, while retaining the quality of the original place.



Moving back into town, we went to the Tree House pavilion in Elephant and Castle, a new community cafe in the center of a

major redevelopment, and were lucky to have the architect Hari Phillips and the developer taking us through the process of delivering this extraordinary pavilion and its wider masterplan.

In March we visited Lambeth Palace Library, (*seen below*) a unique building by Wright and Wright architects.



The same month we went to the Aga Khan Center in Kings Cross, another unique and fascinating building, with many internal gardens, set in the Kings Cross regeneration.

Our talk was given by Tim Bell, of Bell Phillips architects, who focused on working with communities and councils to deliver social housing, including recent infill sites in Greenwich.



This photograph of the Prince of Wales Pond was taken by Tim Keeler

SOCIETY MANAGEMENT

PRESIDENT

Neil Rhind MBE

TRUSTEES

CHAIR

Paul Watts

John Bartram

Allan Griffin

Sarah Mansfield

VICE-CHAIR

Dame Helen Reeves

Nick Patton

Nicola Peers

John Schofield

Howard Shields

TREASURER

Andrew Westbrook FCA

Diane Summers

Ana Sutherland

David Walker

Liz Wright

SECRETARY

Sacha Bright

The Blackheath Society. A Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
Registered Charity number 1196292.

PHOTO CREDITS

The Society would like to thank Society member Tim Keeler for his photograph of wild flowers on the Heath, which appears on the cover of the annual report this year, and for his page 13 photograph of the Prince of Wales pond.

All other photographs were taken by members of the committee or come from the Society's archive.

This report was produced by John Bartram and designed by Pippa Stanton.



Blackheath Hill in 1906



Charity registration number: 1196292

The Blackheath Society

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022

Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
London
SE3 0RB

The Blackheath Society

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The Blackheath Society

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Paul Watts - Chair
Dame Helen Reeves – Vice-Chair
Andrew Westbrook - Treasurer
John Bartram
Allan Griffin
Sarah Mansfield
Nicholas Patton
Nicola Peers
John Schofield
Howard Shields
Diane Summers
Ana Sutherland
David Walker
Elizabeth Wright

Secretary

Sacha Bright

President

Neil Rhind

Vice-Presidents

David Quarmby
Tony Aldous
Lord Stone of Blackheath

Charity Registration Number

1196292

Principal Office

The Old Bakehouse
11 Blackheath Village
Blackheath
London
SE3 9LA

Independent Examiner

Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
London
SE3 ORB

The Blackheath Society

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 December 2022.

Chair's introduction

I am pleased to present the first annual report of our new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The CIO was incorporated in October 2021, and with effect from 1 January 2022, the activities, assets, and liabilities of the Blackheath Society were transferred to the new structure. Last year was the 85th anniversary of the formation of the Society in 1937 and I very much hope that our founders and original trustees would look favourably on the continued activities of the Society in what has been another very active year.

Our events team produced a full programme of walks and talks, including a very entertaining evening "Rock around Blackheath" in May, with many memories and local links to famous bands and musicians. We also lit a beacon on the Heath to mark HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June and held our second Kite Day there in October, when we also planted our Queen Elizabeth II Oak in memory of Her Majesty. The architecture group goes from strength to strength and ran a full programme of events.

In the Village, we saw several changes to local businesses with some closing, including Barclays our last bank and whilst we welcome new enterprises, we recognise that many local businesses are facing challenging times in the current cost of living crisis and deserve our support. We ran a successful fund-raising campaign to pay for new Christmas lights for the Village and are grateful for the support of many local businesses. We also supported the restoration of a grade II listed phone box in Kingswood Place. A blue plaque was unveiled to recognise the Mass Observation social survey organisation which started its life in Grotes Place in 1937. We also assisted with the project for a new children's play area at Talbot Place, which won a grant from Lewisham Council, and we look forward to the play area hopefully finally opening later this year.

The planning group, which has ten volunteers who examine issues of planning policy and scrutinise all applications in our area, continued its important work. There were 668 planning applications in 2022 (350 in Greenwich and 318 in Lewisham), all were looked at and 85 of them were examined in detail. There are several potential new projects in the Village which came to our attention in 2022, including proposals for Blackheath Station car park, although none have yet commenced. A fuller report on the work of the planning team in 2022 can be found in the Spring 2023 newsletter.

The Society narrowly regained the Golden Elephant trophy in the annual cricket match against the Greenwich Society in July. The West Greenwich Graffiti Removal group, of which the Society was a founding member, achieved the milestone of removing over 12,500 defacements since it was formed in 2008.

A major campaign was launched in the Autumn when we learnt of Southeastern trains changes to the December 2022 rail timetable, with all off-peak services at Blackheath being terminated at Cannon Street rather than Charing Cross, removing direct services to Waterloo East and Charing Cross after more than 150 years. We are grateful for the support of existing members, local politicians, and many new members in opposing these changes. There has been a token gesture by the rail company in reinstating an hourly Charing Cross off-peak service from May 2023, but the campaign continues.

The Blackheath Joint Working Party had a quieter year, as its former chair stood down, and we are actively encouraging Greenwich and Lewisham Councils to re-instate regular meetings of this important group. The annual Heath clean-up day in October working with members, local councillors, and other volunteers was another great success.

The Blackheath Society

Trustees' Report (continued)

Our archive team continued to be busy digitising much material and benefited from the donation of further collections during the year.

We welcomed 95 new members in 2022, some as a result of the rail campaign. We held several new members' evenings to understand interests and there are always opportunities for both new and existing members to assist the Society in its many areas of activity.

We learnt with deep sadness of the death of local community supporter Sir Ian Mills, and a tribute was published in the Spring newsletter.

I would like to conclude with my sincere thanks to our many volunteers, to my fellow Trustees, and especially to our secretary Sacha Bright for her enthusiasm and dedication to the Society during the year.

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Chair:

Paul Watts (appointed 13 December 2021)

Vice-Chair:

Dame Helen Reeves (appointed 13 December 2021)

Treasurer:

Andrew Westbrook (appointed 13 December 2021)

Trustees:

John Bartram (appointed 13 December 2021)

Allan Griffin (appointed 13 December 2021)

Sarah Mansfield (appointed 13 December 2021)

Nicholas Patton (appointed 13 December 2021)

Nicola Peers (appointed 13 December 2021)

John Schofield (appointed 13 December 2021)

Howard Shields (appointed 13 December 2021)

Diane Summers (appointed 13 December 2021)

Ana Sutherland (appointed 22 September 2022)

David Walker (appointed 13 December 2021)

Elizabeth Wright (appointed 13 December 2021)

The Blackheath Society

Trustees' Report (continued)

President:

Neil Rhind (appointed 13 December 2021)

Secretary:

Sacha Bright (appointed 27 October 2021)

Vice-Presidents:

David Quarmby (appointed 13 December 2021)

Tony Aldous (appointed 13 December 2021)

Lord Stone of Blackheath (appointed 13 December 2021)

Risk management

The Trustees regularly review the major risks to which the Society is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks that the Society faces. Internal control risks are minimised by the operation of procedures for the authorisation of all transactions and projects, and through the use of a risk register that is reviewed regularly by the Trustees.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's objectives and activities and in the planning of future activities. It is the judgement of the Trustees that activities in pursuit of the above objectives fully meet the public benefit test, which they have kept in mind in planning programmes for the charity. In delivering services and in the appointment of staff, volunteers and trustees the charity operates a strict policy of no discrimination on any grounds.

Financial review

The Society's results on unrestricted funds, before gains or losses on investment assets, was a surplus of £3,375 (2021: £852). This does not include the £599,864 transferred to CIO from the Society.

The Society's annual income, mainly from membership fees and investment income, covers routine office and other overheads. Expenditure on additional projects and activities is generally funded by reserves or from donations and other sources.

There was however an increase in total funds as a result of the gain on investments and receipt of historical funds relating to On Blackheath. The Society saw an increase in total funds of £13,267 (2021: £37,551) for the year.

Membership saw an increase to 889 households (2021: 855). The membership fee remains at £20 per annum for 2023 and has been unchanged since 2018.

With the Covid-19 pandemic ongoing during much of the year, The Society continued much of its endeavours online to continue to provide virtual 'Walk and talks' to members. All monies received to support these projects and relevant expenditure is shown under our unrestricted funds in the accounts.

The Blackheath Society

Trustees' Report (continued)

The Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund) Investments included within fixed assets was held at 168,055 (2021: £177,968). The Charifund generated income for the year of £9,525 (2021: £8,469).

We continued to hold a property investment asset, the freehold of Tranquil Hall in Blackheath Village, which was revalued in 2022 is held at £410,000 in the accounts (2021: £390,000) and is rented to Heath House, a local Preparatory School.

The Society's total funds were £644,730 at 31 December 2022 (2021: £631,463) and we remain in a strong financial position.

Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees adopt a prudent policy and surplus funds are currently held in bank deposit accounts, invested in Charifund units. The Charifund income for the year was £9,525 representing a yield of 5.67% (2021: 4.76%) on a closing valuation of £168,055.

Policy on reserves

The Trustees regularly review the Society's requirements for reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation.

The annual income of the Society is derived from members' subscriptions, donations, investment income and from the rental income received on Tranquil Hall.

The Trustees aim to ensure that annual running costs are controlled carefully and are met from annual income, and that budgets are set accordingly. In the case of special projects, external grants and donations are sought and raised wherever possible, but always in conjunction with the use of the Society's own designated funds.

The possibility always exists that a situation might arise where the Trustees would feel it right to incur significant professional and other costs to meet the objects of the Society. For these reasons, it is considered vital to hold sufficient unrestricted financial reserves to be drawn on in periods of emergency and cash-flow difficulty to protect the Society from the risk of insolvency and from serious disruption to its work, and to enable it to mount any major campaign thought appropriate.

The Trustees therefore consider that the reserves held are at an appropriate level at 31 December 2022.

The Blackheath Society
Trustees' Report (continued)

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees of the charity on 19 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Paul Watts
Chair and Trustee

The Blackheath Society

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Blackheath Society

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

Since The Blackheath Society's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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

The Blackheath Society

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Blackheath Society (continued)



Kirsty Nicholls FCCA
Field Sullivan Chartered Accountants
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
London
SE3 ORB

Date: 23/5/23

The Blackheath Society

Statement of Financial Activities for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022

	Note	2022		Total 31 December 2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity Total			
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	31 December 2021 £	
Income and Endowments from:								
Donations and legacies	3	12,871	30,900	43,771	18,233	20,499	38,732	
Charitable activities	4	8,921	-	8,921	8,830	-	8,830	
Investment income	5	39,525	-	39,525	28,469	-	28,469	
Donation from predecessor Charity	6	599,864	31,599	631,463	-	-	-	
Fees and supplies	6	1,120	-	1,120	1,600	-	1,600	
Total income		662,301	62,499	724,800	57,132	20,499	77,631	
Expenditure on:								
Charitable activities	7	(59,062)	(31,095)	(90,157)	(56,280)	(4,800)	(61,080)	
Total expenditure		(59,062)	(31,095)	(90,157)	(56,280)	(4,800)	(61,080)	
Gains/losses on revaluation of fixed assets for charity's own use		(9,913)	-	(9,913)	21,000	-	21,000	
Gains/losses on investment assets		20,000	-	20,000	-	-	-	
Net income	3	613,326	31,404	644,730	21,852	15,699	37,551	
Gross transfers between funds		(5,000)	5,000	-	-	-	-	
Net movement in funds		608,326	36,404	644,730	21,852	15,699	37,551	
Reconciliation of funds								
Total funds brought forward	19	-	-	-	578,012	15,900	593,912	
Total funds carried forward	19	608,326	36,404	644,730	599,864	31,599	631,463	

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above period.

The notes on pages 11 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Blackheath Society
(Registration number: 1196292)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	13	578,055	567,968
Current assets			
Stocks	14	8,328	6,972
Debtors	15	9,935	8,881
Cash at bank and in hand	16	70,441	59,952
		88,704	75,805
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(21,112)	(11,360)
Net current assets		67,592	64,445
Total assets less current liabilities		625,647	632,413
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(917)	(950)
Net assets		644,730	631,463
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		36,404	31,599
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		608,326	599,864
Total funds	19	644,730	631,463

The financial statements on pages 9 to 21 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 19 May 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Paul Watts
Trustee



.....
Andrew Westbrook
Trustee

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022

1 Charity status

The Charity is domiciled in England and Wales.

The address of its registered office is:

The Old Bakehouse
11 Blackheath Village
Blackheath

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) was incorporated on 27 October 2021 with Charity number 1196292 and took over the business of the Blackheath Society from 1 January 2022 and all comparatives are from the old Blackheath Society Charity number 259843.

2 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Second edition October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

The Blackheath Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

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

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

Investment properties

Investment property is carried at fair value, derived from the current market prices for comparable real estate determined annually by external valuers. The valuers use observable market prices, adjusted if necessary for any difference in the nature, location or condition of the specific asset. Changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss.

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the period, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the period and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the period end.

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out (FIFO).

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Donations and legacies:				
OnBlackheath	-	-	-	20,499
Donations	305	-	305	361
LB Lewisham	-	500	500	-
LBL Beacon	-	1,000	1,000	-
Christmas lights	-	20,900	20,900	-
Balcombe Charitable Trust	-	8,500	8,500	-
Gift Aid reclaimed	-	-	-	4,673
Annual subscriptions	12,218	-	12,218	12,788
Life subscriptions	348	-	348	411
	12,871	30,900	43,771	38,732

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Event income	4,669	4,669	-
Sale of publications and cards	4,252	4,252	8,830
	8,921	8,921	8,830

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Bank interest and dividends	9,525	9,525	8,469
Income from investment properties	30,000	30,000	20,000
	39,525	39,525	28,469

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Transfer from predecessor charity	599,864	31,599	631,463	-
Fees and supplies	1,120	-	1,120	1,600
	600,984	31,599	632,583	1,600

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Event expenses	9,550	7,578
Rubbish bins on the Heath	7,201	-
Christmas cards	937	570
Christmas lights	20,401	707
Rent and service charge	9,723	10,753
Books	1,066	4,526
Newsletter and annual report	2,690	2,240
Staff costs	24,047	22,876
Support costs	14,542	11,830
Total for period ended 31 December 2022	90,157	61,080

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

8 Analysis of support costs

	Total 2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Staff training	-	320
Insurance	297	385
Office expenses	774	-
Bank charges	92	-
Other charges	42	-
Computer software and maintenance	3,000	2,907
Printing, postage and telephone	1,125	817
Sundries	567	612
Cost of trustee meetings	300	-
Independent examination	2,298	2,088
Bookkeeping	2,050	2,313
Legal and professional	3,997	2,388
	14,542	11,830

9 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	Total 2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Staff costs during the period were:		
Wages and salaries	20,633	19,562
Pension costs	3,414	3,314
	24,047	22,876

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the period.

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

11 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
Transfer from predecessor trust	3,283	3,283
Disposals	(1,200)	(1,200)
At 31 December 2022	2,083	2,083
Depreciation		
Transfer from predecessor trust	3,283	3,283
Eliminated on disposals	(1,200)	(1,200)
At 31 December 2022	2,083	2,083
Net book value		
At 31 December 2022	-	-
Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021	-	-

13 Fixed asset investments

	2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Investment properties	410,000	390,000
Other investments	168,055	177,968
	578,055	567,968

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

Investment properties

	Investment properties £
Cost or Valuation	
At 27 October 2021	-
Transfer from predecessor charity	390,000
Revaluation	20,000
At 31 December 2022	410,000
Provision	
At 31 December 2022	-
Net book value	
At 31 December 2022	410,000
Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021	390,000

The freehold property, Tranquil Hall, was bequeathed to the Society in 1975 and is held as investment property. The original value of the property on acquisition was £12,500. The property was revalued by Baxter Philips on 31 December 2022 at £410,000 as market value, and agreed on as a suitable valuation at 31 December 2022 by the trustees.

Other investments

	Unlisted investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 27 October 2021	-	-
Transfer from predecessor charity	177,968	177,968
Revaluation	(9,913)	(9,913)
At 31 December 2022	168,055	168,055
Net book value		
At 31 December 2022	168,055	168,055
Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021	177,968	177,968

Other investments at 31 December 2022 comprise 11,436 units (2021: 11,436) of M&G Investments Charifund units.

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

14 Stock

	2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Stocks	8,328	6,972

15 Debtors

	2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Prepayments	97	-
Other debtors	9,838	8,881
	9,935	8,881

16 Cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Cash at bank	70,441	59,952

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Other creditors	7,500	-
Accruals	4,038	4,271
Deferred income	9,574	7,089
	21,112	11,360

18 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Deferred income	917	950

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

19 Funds

	Transfers from predecessor Charity £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	599,864	62,437	(59,062)	10,087	(5,000)	608,326
Restricted funds						
OnBlackheath	31,599	-	(9,194)	-	-	22,405
Christmas Lights	-	20,900	(20,401)	-	5,000	5,499
Platinum Jubilee Beacon Event	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-	-
Kite day	-	500	(500)	-	-	-
Talbot Place	-	8,500	-	-	-	8,500
	31,599	30,900	(31,095)	-	5,000	36,404
Total funds	631,463	93,337	(90,157)	10,087	-	644,730

Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds	578,012	57,132	(56,280)	21,000	599,864
Restricted funds					
OnBlackheath	15,900	20,499	(4,800)	-	31,599
Total funds	593,912	77,631	(61,080)	21,000	631,463

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

OnBlackheath - these amounts represent monies received from the On Blackheath music festivals in 2018 and earlier to be used on community projects on the heath that have been proposed by the Blackheath Joint Working Party.

Christmas Lights - to arrange 'Blackheath Xmas Lights' for the village.

Talbot Place - to be used for the Talbot Place play area.

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

Note 19 (continued)...

A total of £631,463 was transferred from the Society when they turned from an unincorporated charity to a CIO, to cover the funds that were held at 31st December 2021.

A total of £5,000 was transferred from unrestricted funds to restricted funds - Christmas Lights as the Society agreed to contribute £5,000.

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£
Fixed asset investments	578,055	-	578,055
Current assets	52,300	36,404	88,704
Current liabilities	(21,112)	-	(21,112)
Creditors over 1 year	(917)	-	(917)
Total net assets	608,326	36,404	644,730

Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021			
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£
Fixed asset investments	567,968	-	567,968
Current assets	44,206	31,599	75,805
Current liabilities	(11,360)	-	(11,360)
Creditors over 1 year	(950)	-	(950)
Total net assets	599,864	15,900	631,463

Charity registration number: 1196292

The Blackheath Society

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022

Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
London
SE3 0RB

The Blackheath Society

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The Blackheath Society

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Paul Watts - Chair
Dame Helen Reeves – Vice-Chair
Andrew Westbrook - Treasurer
John Bartram
Allan Griffin
Sarah Mansfield
Nicholas Patton
Nicola Peers
John Schofield
Howard Shields
Diane Summers
Ana Sutherland
David Walker
Elizabeth Wright

Secretary

Sacha Bright

President

Neil Rhind

Vice-Presidents

David Quarmby
Tony Aldous
Lord Stone of Blackheath

Charity Registration Number

1196292

Principal Office

The Old Bakehouse
11 Blackheath Village
Blackheath
London
SE3 9LA

Independent Examiner

Field Sullivan Limited
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
London
SE3 0RB

The Blackheath Society

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31 December 2022.

Chair's introduction

I am pleased to present the first annual report of our new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The CIO was incorporated in October 2021, and with effect from 1 January 2022, the activities, assets, and liabilities of the Blackheath Society were transferred to the new structure. Last year was the 85th anniversary of the formation of the Society in 1937 and I very much hope that our founders and original trustees would look favourably on the continued activities of the Society in what has been another very active year.

Our events team produced a full programme of walks and talks, including a very entertaining evening "Rock around Blackheath" in May, with many memories and local links to famous bands and musicians. We also lit a beacon on the Heath to mark HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June and held our second Kite Day there in October, when we also planted our Queen Elizabeth II Oak in memory of Her Majesty. The architecture group goes from strength to strength and ran a full programme of events.

In the Village, we saw several changes to local businesses with some closing, including Barclays our last bank and whilst we welcome new enterprises, we recognise that many local businesses are facing challenging times in the current cost of living crisis and deserve our support. We ran a successful fund-raising campaign to pay for new Christmas lights for the Village and are grateful for the support of many local businesses. We also supported the restoration of a grade II listed phone box in Kingswood Place. A blue plaque was unveiled to recognise the Mass Observation social survey organisation which started its life in Grotes Place in 1937. We also assisted with the project for a new children's play area at Talbot Place, which won a grant from Lewisham Council, and we look forward to the play area hopefully finally opening later this year.

The planning group, which has ten volunteers who examine issues of planning policy and scrutinise all applications in our area, continued its important work. There were 668 planning applications in 2022 (350 in Greenwich and 318 in Lewisham), all were looked at and 85 of them were examined in detail. There are several potential new projects in the Village which came to our attention in 2022, including proposals for Blackheath Station car park, although none have yet commenced. A fuller report on the work of the planning team in 2022 can be found in the Spring 2023 newsletter.

The Society narrowly regained the Golden Elephant trophy in the annual cricket match against the Greenwich Society in July. The West Greenwich Graffiti Removal group, of which the Society was a founding member, achieved the milestone of removing over 12,500 defacements since it was formed in 2008.

A major campaign was launched in the Autumn when we learnt of Southeastern trains changes to the December 2022 rail timetable, with all off-peak services at Blackheath being terminated at Cannon Street rather than Charing Cross, removing direct services to Waterloo East and Charing Cross after more than 150 years. We are grateful for the support of existing members, local politicians, and many new members in opposing these changes. There has been a token gesture by the rail company in reinstating an hourly Charing Cross off-peak service from May 2023, but the campaign continues.

The Blackheath Joint Working Party had a quieter year, as its former chair stood down, and we are actively encouraging Greenwich and Lewisham Councils to re-instate regular meetings of this important group. The annual Heath clean-up day in October working with members, local councillors, and other volunteers was another great success.

The Blackheath Society

Trustees' Report (continued)

Our archive team continued to be busy digitising much material and benefited from the donation of further collections during the year.

We welcomed 95 new members in 2022, some as a result of the rail campaign. We held several new members' evenings to understand interests and there are always opportunities for both new and existing members to assist the Society in its many areas of activity.

We learnt with deep sadness of the death of local community supporter Sir Ian Mills, and a tribute was published in the Spring newsletter.

I would like to conclude with my sincere thanks to our many volunteers, to my fellow Trustees, and especially to our secretary Sacha Bright for her enthusiasm and dedication to the Society during the year.

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Chair:

Paul Watts (appointed 13 December 2021)

Vice-Chair:

Dame Helen Reeves (appointed 13 December 2021)

Treasurer:

Andrew Westbrook (appointed 13 December 2021)

Trustees:

John Bartram (appointed 13 December 2021)

Allan Griffin (appointed 13 December 2021)

Sarah Mansfield (appointed 13 December 2021)

Nicholas Patton (appointed 13 December 2021)

Nicola Peers (appointed 13 December 2021)

John Schofield (appointed 13 December 2021)

Howard Shields (appointed 13 December 2021)

Diane Summers (appointed 13 December 2021)

Ana Sutherland (appointed 22 September 2022)

David Walker (appointed 13 December 2021)

Elizabeth Wright (appointed 13 December 2021)

The Blackheath Society

Trustees' Report (continued)

President:

Neil Rhind (appointed 13 December 2021)

Secretary:

Sacha Bright (appointed 27 October 2021)

Vice-Presidents:

David Quarmby (appointed 13 December 2021)

Tony Aldous (appointed 13 December 2021)

Lord Stone of Blackheath (appointed 13 December 2021)

Risk management

The Trustees regularly review the major risks to which the Society is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks that the Society faces. Internal control risks are minimised by the operation of procedures for the authorisation of all transactions and projects, and through the use of a risk register that is reviewed regularly by the Trustees.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's objectives and activities and in the planning of future activities. It is the judgement of the Trustees that activities in pursuit of the above objectives fully meet the public benefit test, which they have kept in mind in planning programmes for the charity. In delivering services and in the appointment of staff, volunteers and trustees the charity operates a strict policy of no discrimination on any grounds.

Financial review

The Society's results on unrestricted funds, before gains or losses on investment assets, was a surplus of £3,375 (2021: £852). This does not include the £599,864 transferred to CIO from the Society.

The Society's annual income, mainly from membership fees and investment income, covers routine office and other overheads. Expenditure on additional projects and activities is generally funded by reserves or from donations and other sources.

There was however an increase in total funds as a result of the gain on investments and receipt of historical funds relating to On Blackheath. The Society saw an increase in total funds of £13,267 (2021: £37,551) for the year.

Membership saw an increase to 889 households (2021: 855). The membership fee remains at £20 per annum for 2023 and has been unchanged since 2018.

With the Covid-19 pandemic ongoing during much of the year, The Society continued much of its endeavours online to continue to provide virtual 'Walk and talks' to members. All monies received to support these projects and relevant expenditure is shown under our unrestricted funds in the accounts.

The Blackheath Society

Trustees' Report (continued)

The Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund) Investments included within fixed assets was held at 168,055 (2021: £177,968). The Charifund generated income for the year of £9,525 (2021: £8,469).

We continued to hold a property investment asset, the freehold of Tranquil Hall in Blackheath Village, which was revalued in 2022 is held at £410,000 in the accounts (2021: £390,000) and is rented to Heath House, a local Preparatory School.

The Society's total funds were £644,730 at 31 December 2022 (2021: £631,463) and we remain in a strong financial position.

Investment policy and objectives

The Trustees adopt a prudent policy and surplus funds are currently held in bank deposit accounts, invested in Charifund units. The Charifund income for the year was £9,525 representing a yield of 5.67% (2021: 4.76%) on a closing valuation of £168,055.

Policy on reserves

The Trustees regularly review the Society's requirements for reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation.

The annual income of the Society is derived from members' subscriptions, donations, investment income and from the rental income received on Tranquil Hall.

The Trustees aim to ensure that annual running costs are controlled carefully and are met from annual income, and that budgets are set accordingly. In the case of special projects, external grants and donations are sought and raised wherever possible, but always in conjunction with the use of the Society's own designated funds.

The possibility always exists that a situation might arise where the Trustees would feel it right to incur significant professional and other costs to meet the objects of the Society. For these reasons, it is considered vital to hold sufficient unrestricted financial reserves to be drawn on in periods of emergency and cash-flow difficulty to protect the Society from the risk of insolvency and from serious disruption to its work, and to enable it to mount any major campaign thought appropriate.

The Trustees therefore consider that the reserves held are at an appropriate level at 31 December 2022.

The Blackheath Society
Trustees' Report (continued)

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees of the charity on 19 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Paul Watts
Chair and Trustee

The Blackheath Society

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Blackheath Society

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

Independent examiner's statement

Since The Blackheath Society's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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

The Blackheath Society

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Blackheath Society (continued)



Kirsty Nicholls FCCA
Field Sullivan Chartered Accountants
9 Hare & Billet Road
Blackheath
London
SE3 ORB

Date: 23/5/23

The Blackheath Society

Statement of Financial Activities for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022

	Note	2022		Total 31 December 2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity Total 31 December 2021 £			
		Unrestricted £	Restricted £		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	
Income and Endowments from:								
Donations and legacies	3	12,871	30,900	43,771	18,233	20,499	38,732	
Charitable activities	4	8,921	-	8,921	8,830	-	8,830	
Investment income	5	39,525	-	39,525	28,469	-	28,469	
Donation from predecessor Charity	6	599,864	31,599	631,463	-	-	-	
Fees and supplies	6	1,120	-	1,120	1,600	-	1,600	
Total income		662,301	62,499	724,800	57,132	20,499	77,631	
Expenditure on:								
Charitable activities	7	(59,062)	(31,095)	(90,157)	(56,280)	(4,800)	(61,080)	
Total expenditure		(59,062)	(31,095)	(90,157)	(56,280)	(4,800)	(61,080)	
Gains/losses on revaluation of fixed assets for charity's own use		(9,913)	-	(9,913)	21,000	-	21,000	
Gains/losses on investment assets		20,000	-	20,000	-	-	-	
Net income	3	613,326	31,404	644,730	21,852	15,699	37,551	
Gross transfers between funds		(5,000)	5,000	-	-	-	-	
Net movement in funds		608,326	36,404	644,730	21,852	15,699	37,551	
Reconciliation of funds								
Total funds brought forward	19	-	-	-	578,012	15,900	593,912	
Total funds carried forward	19	608,326	36,404	644,730	599,864	31,599	631,463	

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above period.

The notes on pages 11 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Blackheath Society
(Registration number: 1196292)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	13	578,055	567,968
Current assets			
Stocks	14	8,328	6,972
Debtors	15	9,935	8,881
Cash at bank and in hand	16	70,441	59,952
		88,704	75,805
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(21,112)	(11,360)
Net current assets		67,592	64,445
Total assets less current liabilities		625,647	632,413
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(917)	(950)
Net assets		644,730	631,463
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		36,404	31,599
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		608,326	599,864
Total funds	19	644,730	631,463

The financial statements on pages 9 to 21 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 19 May 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Paul Watts
Trustee



.....
Andrew Westbrook
Trustee

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022

1 Charity status

The Charity is domiciled in England and Wales.

The address of its registered office is:

The Old Bakehouse
11 Blackheath Village
Blackheath

The Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) was incorporated on 27 October 2021 with Charity number 1196292 and took over the business of the Blackheath Society from 1 January 2022 and all comparatives are from the old Blackheath Society Charity number 259843.

2 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Second edition October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

The Blackheath Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

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

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

Investment properties

Investment property is carried at fair value, derived from the current market prices for comparable real estate determined annually by external valuers. The valuers use observable market prices, adjusted if necessary for any difference in the nature, location or condition of the specific asset. Changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss.

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the period, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the period and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the period end.

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out (FIFO).

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Donations and legacies:				
OnBlackheath	-	-	-	20,499
Donations	305	-	305	361
LB Lewisham	-	500	500	-
LBL Beacon	-	1,000	1,000	-
Christmas lights	-	20,900	20,900	-
Balcombe Charitable Trust	-	8,500	8,500	-
Gift Aid reclaimed	-	-	-	4,673
Annual subscriptions	12,218	-	12,218	12,788
Life subscriptions	348	-	348	411
	12,871	30,900	43,771	38,732

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Event income	4,669	4,669	-
Sale of publications and cards	4,252	4,252	8,830
	8,921	8,921	8,830

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Bank interest and dividends	9,525	9,525	8,469
Income from investment properties	30,000	30,000	20,000
	39,525	39,525	28,469

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Transfer from predecessor charity	599,864	31,599	631,463	-
Fees and supplies	1,120	-	1,120	1,600
	600,984	31,599	632,583	1,600

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Event expenses	9,550	7,578
Rubbish bins on the Heath	7,201	-
Christmas cards	937	570
Christmas lights	20,401	707
Rent and service charge	9,723	10,753
Books	1,066	4,526
Newsletter and annual report	2,690	2,240
Staff costs	24,047	22,876
Support costs	14,542	11,830
Total for period ended 31 December 2022	90,157	61,080

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

8 Analysis of support costs

	Total 2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Staff training	-	320
Insurance	297	385
Office expenses	774	-
Bank charges	92	-
Other charges	42	-
Computer software and maintenance	3,000	2,907
Printing, postage and telephone	1,125	817
Sundries	567	612
Cost of trustee meetings	300	-
Independent examination	2,298	2,088
Bookkeeping	2,050	2,313
Legal and professional	3,997	2,388
	14,542	11,830

9 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	Total 2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Staff costs during the period were:		
Wages and salaries	20,633	19,562
Pension costs	3,414	3,314
	24,047	22,876

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the period.

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

11 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
Transfer from predecessor trust	3,283	3,283
Disposals	(1,200)	(1,200)
At 31 December 2022	2,083	2,083
Depreciation		
Transfer from predecessor trust	3,283	3,283
Eliminated on disposals	(1,200)	(1,200)
At 31 December 2022	2,083	2,083
Net book value		
At 31 December 2022	-	-
Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021		
	-	-

13 Fixed asset investments

	2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Investment properties	410,000	390,000
Other investments	168,055	177,968
	578,055	567,968

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

Investment properties

	Investment properties £
Cost or Valuation	
At 27 October 2021	-
Transfer from predecessor charity	390,000
Revaluation	20,000
At 31 December 2022	410,000
Provision	
At 31 December 2022	-
Net book value	
At 31 December 2022	410,000
Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021	390,000

The freehold property, Tranquil Hall, was bequeathed to the Society in 1975 and is held as investment property. The original value of the property on acquisition was £12,500. The property was revalued by Baxter Philips on 31 December 2022 at £410,000 as market value, and agreed on as a suitable valuation at 31 December 2022 by the trustees.

Other investments

	Unlisted investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 27 October 2021	-	-
Transfer from predecessor charity	177,968	177,968
Revaluation	(9,913)	(9,913)
At 31 December 2022	168,055	168,055
Net book value		
At 31 December 2022	168,055	168,055
Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021	177,968	177,968

Other investments at 31 December 2022 comprise 11,436 units (2021: 11,436) of M&G Investments Charifund units.

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

14 Stock

	2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Stocks	8,328	6,972

15 Debtors

	2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Prepayments	97	-
Other debtors	9,838	8,881
	9,935	8,881

16 Cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Cash at bank	70,441	59,952

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Other creditors	7,500	-
Accruals	4,038	4,271
Deferred income	9,574	7,089
	21,112	11,360

18 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2022 £	Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021 £
Deferred income	917	950

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

19 Funds

	Transfers from predecessor Charity £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Unrestricted funds						
General Funds	599,864	62,437	(59,062)	10,087	(5,000)	608,326
Restricted funds						
OnBlackheath	31,599	-	(9,194)	-	-	22,405
Christmas Lights	-	20,900	(20,401)	-	5,000	5,499
Platinum Jubilee Beacon Event	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-	-
Kite day	-	500	(500)	-	-	-
Talbot Place	-	8,500	-	-	-	8,500
	31,599	30,900	(31,095)	-	5,000	36,404
Total funds	631,463	93,337	(90,157)	10,087	-	644,730

Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
Unrestricted funds					
General Funds	578,012	57,132	(56,280)	21,000	599,864
Restricted funds					
OnBlackheath	15,900	20,499	(4,800)	-	31,599
Total funds	593,912	77,631	(61,080)	21,000	631,463

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

OnBlackheath - these amounts represent monies received from the On Blackheath music festivals in 2018 and earlier to be used on community projects on the heath that have been proposed by the Blackheath Joint Working Party.

Christmas Lights - to arrange 'Blackheath Xmas Lights' for the village.

Talbot Place - to be used for the Talbot Place play area.

The Blackheath Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Period from 27 October 2021 to 31 December 2022 (continued)

Note 19 (continued)...

A total of £631,463 was transferred from the Society when they turned from an unincorporated charity to a CIO, to cover the funds that were held at 31st December 2021.

A total of £5,000 was transferred from unrestricted funds to restricted funds - Christmas Lights as the Society agreed to contribute £5,000.

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£
Fixed asset investments	578,055	-	578,055
Current assets	52,300	36,404	88,704
Current liabilities	(21,112)	-	(21,112)
Creditors over 1 year	(917)	-	(917)
Total net assets	608,326	36,404	644,730

Comparatives from predecessor Charity 2021			
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£
Fixed asset investments	567,968	-	567,968
Current assets	44,206	31,599	75,805
Current liabilities	(11,360)	-	(11,360)
Creditors over 1 year	(950)	-	(950)
Total net assets	599,864	15,900	631,463