



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From. 1 July 2023 Period start date.

To 30 June 2024 Period end date

Charity name: Susan Countess of Hardwicke Almshouse Charity

Charity registration number: 1198867

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To relieve the poverty of persons who are in need and who have previously resided in the Parishes of Wimpole or Arrington or the surrounding areas through the provision and maintenance of almshouses accommodation.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	The main activities undertaken in relation to those purposes are the maintenance and repair of the four Grade II listed Almshouses and grounds.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.	Para 1.18	Trustees work within the Charity Commission Guidance on public benefit by applying the maintenance contributions and other invested income the charity receives for reinvestment and the maintenance and repair of the Almshouses for the benefit of the residents.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	Charity's achievements during the year are reactive maintenance, including reinstatement of power to number 129 and heating to number 127. Refurbishment of number 125. Planned maintenance - external decorating, drain cleansing, grounds maintenance, replacing electric showers in 127 and 129.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The overall position for income and expenditure reported was a surplus for the year of £9,759. The Trustees consider the financial position of the Charity to be stable.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The trustees of the Charity hold that reserves are essential to maintain the ongoing viability of the charity. The Charity has two designated reserves; an Annual Planned Maintenance Fund (APMF) and a Major Repair/Renovation Fund (MRF). In addition, sufficient funds will be held as a General Reserve, in a readily available form, to cover day to day expenditure – such as insurance, Almshouse Association membership, bank charges, etc.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Annual Planned Maintenance fund is £10,000.00. Major Repair/Renovation fund is £88,000.00 held in an interest-bearing account. General reserve is £3,000.00.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	The Charity's governing document is the Charity Commission scheme No. 1198867.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	The Charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are selected based on the experience, skills and dedication necessary for the running of the Charity. Such as: Surveyors and Managers for repair and maintenance of a Grade II listed building and services, Accountants or Finance Directors for financial management, fund raising and grant application, Social and Pastoral care for the health and wellbeing of residents. Pastoral Care is provided by The Rector of the Orwell Group Benefice who is the Ex Officio Trustee. The Rector is appointed by The Diocese of Ely.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Susan Countess of Hardwicke Almshouse Charity
Other name the charity uses	None
Registered charity number	1198867
Charity's principal address	7 Leete Place, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 5DX

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Julia Clarke			
2	Liz Dand			
3	Jane Hamilton	Treasurer		
4	Nigel Seymour			
5	Mukesh Malhotra			
6	Charles Cook	Chairman		
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
None		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
None		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	None
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	None

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Charles Cook	
Position (Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	

Date	16 January 2025
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