

# BABONS CANCER SUPPORT

England & Wales · Charity number 1204376

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2023-08-16

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

## Contact

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**Address** 147 High Street  
Tonbridge  
Kent  
TN9 1DH

**Phone** 01732 711634

**Email** [office@babons.org.uk](mailto:office@babons.org.uk)

**Website** [www.babons.org.uk](http://www.babons.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, THE RELIEF OF NEED OF THOSE SUFFERING OR RECOVERING FROM CANCER, THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS AND CARERS OR PEOPLE OTHERWISE IMPACTED BY CANCER, LIVING IN OR AROUND THE KENT AREA, PRIMARILY BY: I. THE PROVISION OF COUNSELLING SERVICES II. THE PROVISION OF ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO AID ACCESS TO OTHER HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES AND SUPPORT; AND III. BY RAISING AWARENESS OF THE CHALLENGES FACE BY THOSE LIVING WITH A CANCER DIAGNOSIS

**Activities:** RELIEF OF THOSE IN NEED, BY WAY OF, INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO ARE DIAGNOSED AND OR RECOVERING FROM CANCER, THROUGH THE PROVISION OF 1. COUNSELLING SERVICES 2. RAISING AWARENESS OF THE CHALLENGES FACED BY INDIVIDUALS DIAGNOSED WITH AND OR RECOVERING FROM CANCER

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Kent

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-11-30	£107,336	£67,423	-	-
2024-11-30	£99,000	£76,000	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Louise Elizabeth Burgess		2024-02-28
Matt Gent		2023-08-16
Neil Williams		2023-08-16

**BABONS CANCER SUPPORT**

England & Wales - Charity number 1204376

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# Accounts

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# ANNUAL REPORT

and unaudited Financial Statements  
Year ending 30th November 2025

Approved by the Board of Trustees  
at the Annual Meeting on 6th May 2026

**Charity Number: 1204376**



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# Administrative Information

<b>Status</b>	Babons Cancer Support was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the Charity Commission on 16th August 2023, under charity number 1204376.
<b>Co-Founders</b>	Mr Douglas Spickernell Mrs Heidi Spickernell-Foad Miss Tracy Spickernell
<b>Board of Trustees</b>	Mr Neil Williams (Chair) Mr Matt Gent Mrs Louise Burgess
<b>Registered Office</b>	Babons Cancer Support 147 High Street Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1DH 01732 711634 <a href="http://www.babons.org.uk">www.babons.org.uk</a>
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Shruti Soni Ltd 117A St John's Hill Sevenoaks TN13 3PE
<b>Bank</b>	Co-operative Bank Business Customer Services PO Box 4931 Swindon SN4 4PL

# Meet the Team



**Douglas Spickernell** is a co-founder of BABONS Cancer Support and was married to Jean for more than 50 years. In supporting and caring for Jean during her illness, he brings with him a lived experience of the issues surrounding those impacted by cancer.

Douglas comes from a business background, having worked in the retail sector for 47 Years, the last 23 of which he set up and ran his own DIY company.

He brings his business experience to Babons Cancer Support and looks after the bookkeeping alongside an independent accountant, as well as liaising with HMRC and the Charity Commission.



**Heidi Spickernell-Foad** is a co-founder and C.E.O of BABONS Cancer Support. Having personally experienced the pain of travelling the journey of cancer and then end of life caring for her mum, Jean, she understands the many areas of support that are needed by anyone impacted by cancer and is passionate about providing that support for the Kent Cancer Community.

During Heidi's career she has been a Company Director, as well as working in a Primary School for 11 years, supporting children with a variety of needs. Heidi brings her business background and experience to her role as C.E.O. as well as her extraordinary organisation and communication skills, and care from her years as an HLTA.



**Tracy Spickernell** is a co-founder and Counselling Lead at BABONS Cancer Support. She graduated from Newman University as an Integrative Counsellor and from Chichester University with a teaching degree. Tracy has over 30 years' experience of working with young people in educational and pastoral settings, and 9 years of working with adults in a counselling setting. She is also a Level 3 Counselling Skills trainer. Before working for BABONS, Tracy spent 4.5 years heading up the Counselling Team at a Cancer Charity in Birmingham.

Tracy brings with her not only the experience of working with people impacted by cancer therapeutically, but also an understanding of how cancer impacts the patient as well as the family and friends around them due to helping care for her mum, Jean.

# Meet the Team



**Neil Williams** is our Chair of Trustees, and strongly believes that charities need to be run like businesses. He has many years of experience sitting on boards ensuring companies meet their objectives. He also volunteers for the Samaritans.



**Louise Burgess** is our Trustee with oversight for finances. She works alongside Douglas Spickernell to ensure our charity accounts are up to date, complete and presented correctly to our independent auditor. Louise is a qualified accountant with many years of experience as Chief Financial Officer within the education sector.



**Matt Gent** is our Trustee with oversight for Safeguarding and matters relating to the employment of charity personnel. His knowledge extends to all charity policies and procedures.



**Volunteers** Over this year we have had 21 volunteers who support the charity in various ways. These have included a Duke Of Edinburgh student placement, a Youth Advocate, qualified service providers who volunteer their time and expertise in counselling, pamper sessions, wig and bra consultations pre- and post-surgery and treatment, as well as volunteers who help us with prepping for and running events, providing admin support, making welfare calls, doing research for statistics and signposting, supporting with form filling, cleaning, and with any other needs that present themselves.

These volunteers are vital to the daily running of Babons Cancer Support.

# Report of the Board of Trustees for the year ending 30th November 2025

The Board of Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30th November 2025.

The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and Financial Statements comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Charity's Governing Document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practise (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (Effective 1st January 2019).

## How Babons Cancer Support Came to Be

Babons Cancer Support has been created in memory of Jean Spickernell (called "Babon" by her grandchildren) who lost her life to cancer in 2022. Jean was a "pocket rocket" who loved her community and always looked for ways to help others even when she needed help herself.

Her family had experience of supporting the cancer community through counselling, but then in 2020 the stories they were hearing from others became their own as Jean was diagnosed with Bilateral Metastatic Breast Cancer and Endometrial Cancer. Whilst dealing with this devastating diagnosis, the journey they experienced as a family highlighted just how much help was needed, and how fast things changed on a daily basis with Jean's care. They felt very alone as a family, with no one there to guide them through.

With this in mind, support for the local cancer community was very close to Jean's heart. She shared her desire for something to be set up locally so that others going through something similar to her were able to be supported and cared for. Sadly, she did not live long enough to see it happen, but her family took up the baton and BABONS was born. On 16th August 2023, Babons Cancer Support was registered with the Charity Commission of the UK.



**BABONS...**

Bringing A Bit Of Needed Support

The mission and purpose of the charity is laid out in the Charity's Constitution held by the Charity Commission in the UK and can be viewed online on the Charity Commissions website [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission)

Babons Cancer Support is a CIO and our objectives are:

For the public benefit, the relief of need of those suffering or recovering from cancer, their family members and carers or people otherwise impacted by cancer, living in or around the Kent area, primarily by:

- i. The provision of counselling services
- ii. The provision of advice and assistance to aid access to other health and social care services and support; and
- iii. By raising awareness of the challenges faced by those living with a cancer diagnosis

Our objective is to provide support, outside of medical intervention, for the local cancer community, primarily in Tonbridge and the wider Kent area.

With this in mind, the ethos behind all of our work means that:

- We believe in providing good customer service. This means that we will do all we can to support our clients and address their needs.
- We aim to provide a positive environment where clients feel seen, heard, held and helped in a safe and confidential space with unconditional positive regard.
- We are further committed to treating our clients, colleagues and business partners with dignity, ensuring that we create a safe, inclusive environment free from discrimination and harassment.
- Our mission and constitution is designed to guide our person-centred approach, our decision making, and to manage all legal risks, whilst ensuring the charity acts in the best interests of its community and service users.
- Our Founders are committed to working with our Board of Trustees, in matters of integrity, fairness and our dealings with business partners.
- The Founders and Trustees are committed to being truthful and honest in all actions.
- All Founders, Trustees, employees and volunteers must disclose any interests that may influence their professional decisions. When faced with an ethical decision we must all reflect on how the decision might affect the Charity.
- The word of law will be applied to all actions relating to applicable laws, regulations and industry standards, including following regulations and advice given by the Charity Commission of the UK.

# Objectives and Activities

- The fund-raising activities of Babons Cancer Support rely on public and business donations to fund their work. As Founders and Trustees, we are aware of the need for transparency in all our dealings with those who benefit from the work of the Charity.
- We are committed to being good stewards of all financial gifts, grants and donations that we receive, using resources responsibly and in the Charity's best interest, complying with the laws that apply to fundraising.
- We will only raise funds for our charity's stated purpose and not for any other purpose.
- We will only use funds raised for the purpose stated at the time of raising.

## Babons Cancer Support offers the following activities regularly:

- Counselling
- Therapeutic Support Groups
- Drop-In Emotional Support
- Listening Service
- Signposting to other support services
- PIP and Blue badge application support
- Creative Therapeutic Workshops

## Structure, Governance and Management

The day-to-day running of Babons Cancer Support is carried out by the two co-founders Heidi Spickernell-Foad and Tracy Spickernell and is supported by Douglas Spickernell. The Board of Trustees, under the Chair of Neil Williams, met regularly throughout the year and approved the Annual Report and Accounts at the Annual General Meeting on 6th May 2026.

Babons Cancer Support has initiated and maintains 26 policies including the following:

Adult Safeguarding policy  
Child Safeguarding policy  
Confidentiality policy  
Data Protection and GDPR policy  
Health & Safety policy  
Safer Recruitment policy  
Volunteer policy

The Objectives and Activities, and Achievement and Performance sections of this report clearly set out the activities which the Charity undertakes for the Public Benefit. The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to Public Benefit Guidance published by the Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the Charity.

## Major Risks

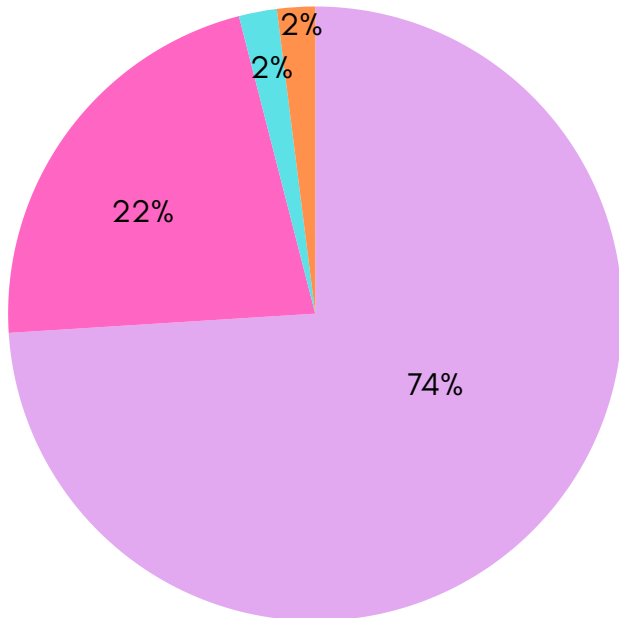
Babons Cancer Support Trustees regularly monitor and assess the major risks to which the Charity has the potential to be exposed. Any risks identified are discussed at Trustee meetings and suitable measures put in place to mitigate those risks. All discussions and decisions made are recorded in the Trustee Minutes.

### Clients Supported

1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2024 - 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025

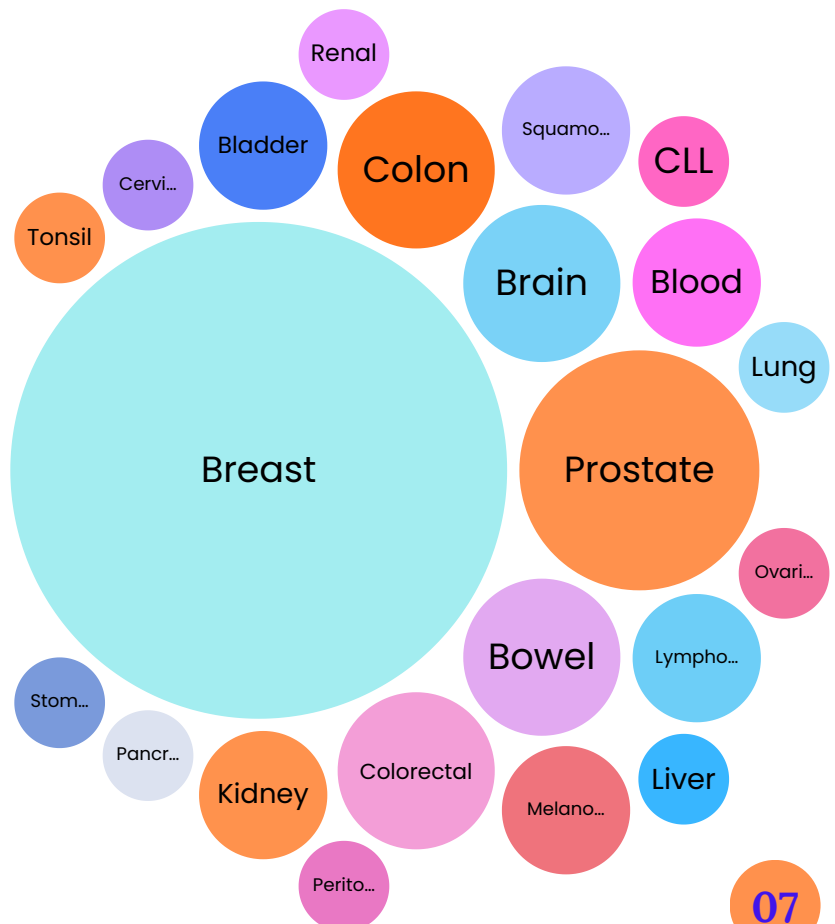
● Patient ● Relative ● Friend

● Carer



### Client Cancers Represented

1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2024 - 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025



# Achievements and Performance

Looking back over the last year, we have been so encouraged by all that has taken place with and for our local cancer community. Here are the highlights:

## Our First Birthday

We celebrated our first birthday by inviting all our clients, trustees and supporters for Birthday Cake and Tea. It was a wonderful celebration with many clients attending. It was an occasion where a large percentage of the people in attendance were from our cancer community who we had journeyed with over that 1st year.



## Centre Activities

The premises on Tonbridge High Street, from which Babons Cancer Support operates, continues to be central to our daily support activities. From there we run a daily Drop-In facility where people can access support without needing to make an appointment first. We never know who or what situation might come through the door, and so our team of staff and volunteers are always ready to welcome anyone who needs support. Alongside this we have run weekly Drop-In Cancer Cafés. This has given clients the opportunity to meet other people in similar situations, to chat informally with them over a coffee. We have especially seen people who live on their own accessing this facility. As a response to the rise in footfall at the centre and the increasing needs of the Drop-In clients, in the last 2 months we were successful in securing funding for a Drop-in & Centre Manager position. We look forward to the development of this service over the coming year as a result.

Our partnership with Look Good Feel Better has continued over the year, hosting monthly confidence boosting workshops. As an addition to the adult workshops, a big highlight for us was putting on our first one for young people with cancer alongside Teenage Cancer Trust and The Royal Marsden. It was such a joy to watch these young people come through the front door, quietly, nervously, but leave at the end of the workshop laughing, smiling, and confident with some new friendships born.



We recognise that some people find talking about their experiences quite difficult. With this in mind, we hosted several creative workshops over the year. This gave clients the opportunity to come and create something with their hands, and either share their experiences or simply listen to others at the same time. This included Christmas and Spring themed workshops for adults, and an Easter workshop for children. These workshops were very well attended and continue to be something that clients ask for more of.



Cancer has a big impact on all areas of life, including mobility, finances, as well as the ability to think clearly while trying to navigate through the government and local authority systems during times of distress. As a result, our staff and volunteer team continue to help clients with Blue Badge applications and PIP (Personal Independence Payments) applications as requests for this kind of support has grown over the year. Where support and advice falls outside of our expertise, we work closely with the local Citizens Advice Bureau team at Living Well Tonbridge, to enable us to provide a more rounded, greater level of support to the local cancer community.

## Counselling & Emotional Support



1-1 Counselling continues to be the core service that we offer at Babons Cancer Support. We have found this to be the most requested service. We aim to provide quick access to counselling so clients receive support when they need it most. Clients can access up to 12 free-of-charge sessions. During this year, our 3 student counsellors on placement with us completed their training and have now qualified. Two of these have stayed on to volunteer their time, continuing to offer counselling to clients. Alongside them, we have 1 other qualified counsellor on the staff team, and another experienced counsellor and 1 art therapist who have offered their services on a voluntary basis. The counselling service continues to go from strength to strength. We have also continued to build relationships with a local secondary school, providing free counselling and emotional support to any of their students impacted by cancer.

The Therapeutic support groups are another of our core services. Over the last year we have run multiple groups for both men and women who either have, or have previously had a diagnosis of cancer. With a maximum of 8 clients each, the groups run for 10 weeks and are facilitated by 2 counsellors. We have found these groups have become safe spaces in their own right where clients have formed trusted friendships and support through the unique bond that cancer brings to those who have experienced it.



# Achievements and Performance

## Fundraising

Fundraising has taken many forms over the last year. There has been growth in larger donations being given by service users, and also growth in larger grants applied for as a result of our first years' published Accounts and Annual Report. We've also received some legacies. As well as these, the following have taken place:

## Events led by Babons Cancer Support

We put on a Quiz Night, a Comedy Night and a Tonbridge High Street Easter Egg Hunt during the last year. These events served not only as a way to raise funds for the charity but also created great opportunities to connect with our community, including people who hadn't come across us before due to being invited by volunteers, clients, colleagues, friends and family.



## Events led by Others

One of the local schools ran something called 'Pink Week' in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness. As a part of this, we were invited to run an assembly with the children and staff (which involved dressing up one of the teaching staff as a superhero in a pink tutu!), inviting the children to become Babons' very own superheroes, raising funds and awareness for the charity. They rose to the challenge and raised an amazing £1004.70 for Babons Cancer Support over the week.



Another highlight was the Dragon Boat Race, organised by the Tonbridge Lions Club. We had a boat in the race, being rowed by a mixture of our clients, friends and family. It was a fantastic community day, where £4000 was raised for the charity as well as local awareness.

We've been overwhelmed this year by several clients who put on events for us. One put on a wonderful afternoon tea to raise funds for the charity. 60 people attended and £2131 was raised. Another has been doing several talks all over Kent about his time with the RAF, with all the donations given to him being paid to the charity.



# Achievements and Performance

We were chosen by Currys in Tunbridge Wells as their Charity this year. As a result they hosted a fundraising weekend at their Superstore with fun games, and brilliant prizes to raise much appreciated funds.

We were also chosen as one of three recipients of the ticket sales from the Tonbridge Business Awards 2025.

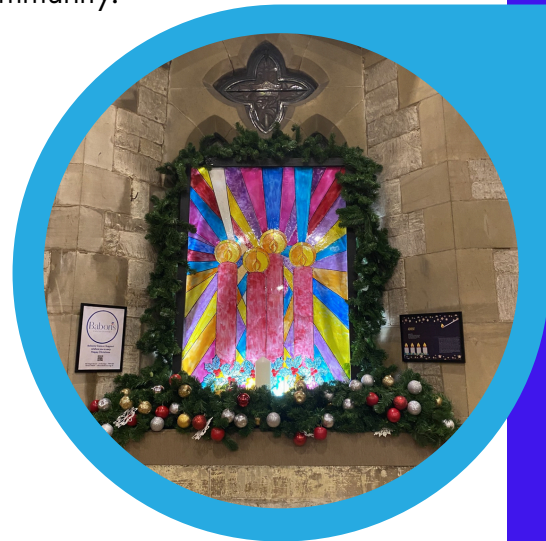
Other community events that we had a presence at to raise funds for the Charity included having stalls at multiple Christmas Fairs, The Tonbridge Lions Community Fete and Tonbridge Pride.



Judy Wood, owner of The Medway School of Dance, Tonbridge Lions Club, Marks & Spencer (Tonbridge), St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School, Specsavers (Tonbridge), and Cook (Tonbridge) continue to support us wherever possible. They have been core supporters of the charity since its inception and we are grateful for them and the many ways that they find to support this their cancer community.

## Talks and Awareness

We have worked alongside a local church's community project, 'Living Well Tonbridge' for 2 years now. We have a presence at the project once a month so that we continue to work alongside other local charities to provide easily accessible joined up support where needed. As one of the agencies at Living Well, we were invited to make one of the window displays on the theme of Advent for the Church's Christmas windows display.



Another community we have continued to have a presence in is the local Farmers Market in Hildenborough where we have a monthly information and gift stall. This enables us to have a face in the local community to support people who may not necessarily know what we are about whilst also giving us the opportunity to raise some extra funds and donations.

# Achievements and Performance

We've had the privilege of being invited to speak at various groups, hospitals and events this year, including a Breast Cancer Support Group at Maidstone Hospital, Nuffield Hospital, The Royal Marsden, Tonbridge Rotary Club, Tonbridge Women's Fellowship, Carers Day event, West Kent Radio where we were interviewed, North Kent College Freshers Fair and Springfest, Hadlow College Fresher Fair and Springfest, Physio and Cancer wellbeing talk in Edenbridge, South Tonbridge Women's Institute and various other networking events. As well as these, we had the opportunity to attend the Tonbridge Invicta Football Awards where we had a

presence with an information stand, as well as attending a practice session. This was a particular highlight as we are intentionally working on ways to reach our local male population with the purpose of encouraging conversations about health and getting themselves checked for male prominent cancers.

Another important moment was being invited to an afternoon event with the Tonbridge Nepalese Community. There are many from this Community Group who live in the local area, and so connecting with them in this way has been special. We look forward to building the relationship with them in the future and especially supporting any of their community impacted by cancer.

## Surprise Recognition

When Babons Cancer Support was founded, it was done so in memory of someone who simply wanted to help and support the community that she loved. As Founders of the charity, our personal mission and commitment was to continue loving her community for her. Little did we realise just how much that community would love us back! As well as so many local groups and businesses supporting us by providing tea, coffee, flowers, putting on fundraisers for us, and even being chosen as their Charity of the Year, we were also incredibly humbled to be nominated for 3 charity awards by this amazing community. We are so honoured to have been finalists in the BBC Radio Kent 'Make a Difference' Awards in the Community Group Category; finalists again in the Kent Charity Awards 'Start Up Charity' category, and joint winners in the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Awards as an 'Outstanding Community Group'.



# What does the Future Hold?

We are becoming much more known locally by both the public and local businesses. The use of our centre is growing, and our facilities are used far more now than ever. With the secured funding for a Drop-in & Centre Manager, part of their role will be to develop the use of the space we have with appropriate services that compliment what we already provide, so to respond to the needs of the clients that come through our door.

We are already in the process of securing three more student counsellors on placement working with adults, and for the first time we hope to provide a placement for a student working with children and young people in a counselling capacity. This will support our schools work especially.

Extra storage space is needed as we acquire more materials for therapeutic sessions (eg, wigs, bras, Look Good Feel Better kits, counselling materials etc), flags, banners etc for events, and items needed for the day-to-day running of the centre. Our premises are small and it is becoming a need that we will have to address.

We plan to hold even more events in and around Tonbridge so we can network with other organisations and fundraise. We have confirmed a place for a runner in the London Marathon 2026. This has now become two runners as a relation of a client (who had already secured their place) has chosen to run for us.

At the end of November 2025, we had 109 clients registered on our books. Numerous other unregistered members of the public call in, both to find out what we do and to talk to one of our volunteer listeners in a quiet environment.

We have created 3 very successful fundraising events which raised £7,500 during the year. Following on from these successes we plan to build on these by hosting further events in the coming financial year. We are in the planning stages of doing something different for 1 of the events, to make sure we are constantly reaching new clientele and community groups.



# Financial Review

We recognise that spreading the word to our local community, so that the people who need our support know where to find us and walk through our door goes hand in hand with raising the finances to ensure that the support needed can be given.

In the current financial year ending on November 30th 2025, we have continued building the awareness of Babons Cancer Support together with seeking every opportunity to increase donations and grants.

As a result, our total income for this year was made up from:

1. Non-Gift Aid donations
2. Gift Aid Donations
3. Grants
4. Sponsorship
5. Sales

The total income for the year was £107,336 against expenditure of £67,423 giving a surplus of £39,913. The previous year saw a surplus of £22,832. Thereby giving us a balance carried forward of £62,745. A full breakdown can be found on page 17 of the accounts section.

Our expenses this year were £67,423 against £75,500 last year but that included our opening costs

During this our second year we have gained considerable knowledge about our geographical area, in terms of how things work and function. Understanding the needs of the community more, where the gaps in support are, and we are aware of how we interact with and complement other agencies in our area, particularly the NHS (especially oncology at the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Hospitals), and GP surgeries. To enable us to cover this Babons Cancer Support has spent some £29,000 on administrative staff and sessional counsellors. We expect that this will increase next year.

We benefit from a 100% reduction in our council tax, for which we are very grateful. We have also built up some important relationships as well as unexpected financial support from several local companies and organisations These include Marks & Spencer Tonbridge, Specsavers Tonbridge, Cook Tonbridge, Tonbridge School, Tonbridge Lions, St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School.

## Reserves Policy

The Trustees keep cash reserves of around 6 month operating costs with the bank. As a small charity it is imperative that we keep a close eye on our income and expenditure so that we can service our local cancer community effectively and compassionately. It is early days for us to be able to forecast a reliable pattern.

# Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Trust's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed                     NVWdl                     (Chair of Trustees')

Name                     6/5/2026



**Babons Cancer Support**  
**147 High Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1DH tel:01732 711634**

**[www.babons.org.uk](http://www.babons.org.uk)**  
**[office@babons.org.uk](mailto:office@babons.org.uk)**

**Charity number 1204376**

# Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Babons Cancer Support

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 November 2025 which are set out on pages 17 to 18.

## Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

## Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

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.

*Shruti Soni*

**Shruti Soni FCCA FCIE**

Shruti Soni Ltd ● Chartered Certified Accountants  
117a St. John's Hill, Sevenoaks TN13 3PE

Date: 11 May 2026

**Babons Cancer Support**  
**Receipts and payments accounts**  
**For the period ended 30 November 2025**

	01/12/2024 to 30/11/2025			16/08/2023 to 30/11/2024		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	<i>Unrestricted</i> funds	<i>Restricted</i> funds	<i>Total funds</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>						
Grants and donations	60,581	25,558	86,139	83,208	2,750	85,958
Fundraising income	13,179	-	13,179	12,374	-	12,374
Gift Aid claimed	8,018	-	8,018	-	-	-
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>81,778</b>	<b>25,558</b>	<b>107,336</b>	<b>95,582</b>	<b>2,750</b>	<b>98,332</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Fundraising cost	4,753	-	4,753	-	-	-
Wages and other staff cost	22,098	4,066	26,164	24,669	-	24,669
Rent and Insurance	12,360	550	12,910	13,181	-	13,181
Repairs and Maintenance	908	-	908	10,822	-	10,822
Charity formation	-	-	-	1,360	-	1,360
DBS expenses	61	-	61	649	-	649
Membership	-	-	-	750	-	750
Miscellaneous expenses	7,825	727	8,552	9,499	-	9,499
Office equipment	-	-	-	5,000	-	5,000
Professional cost	1,948	8,024	9,972	4,360	-	4,360
Telephone and IT equipment	1,809	-	1,809	2,065	-	2,065
Travel expenses	-	-	-	136	-	136
Utilities	1,947	347	2,294	3,009	-	3,009
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>53,709</b>	<b>13,714</b>	<b>67,423</b>	<b>75,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>75,500</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>28,069</b>	<b>11,844</b>	<b>39,913</b>	<b>20,082</b>	<b>2,750</b>	<b>22,832</b>
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>20,082</b>	<b>2,750</b>	<b>22,832</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>48,151</b>	<b>14,594</b>	<b>62,745</b>	<b>20,082</b>	<b>2,750</b>	<b>22,832</b>

# Babons Cancer Support

## Statement of assets and liabilities

at the end of the period 30 November 2025

Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Cash at bank and on hand	£48,151	£14,594	£62,745
	£48,151	£14,594	£62,745
Debtors - HMRC gift Aid due	£2,500		
Creditors - accruals	£1,120		

### Related party transactions

Tracy Spickernell, charity Trustee, is employed as a qualified councillor and was remunerated £16,313 (2024: £20,907) during the year.

Heidi Spickernell, sister of Trustee, Tracy Spickernell, resigned as Trustee on 15.07.2025 to take on employment with the charity. She was remunerated £3,519 (2024: none) during the year. No other charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity.

Unrestricted donations of £555 and £10k were received from a trustee and a relative of the trustees during the year respectively (2024: nil). There are no other related party transactions to disclose for 2025 (2024: none)

### Donation in kind

Total unrestricted income and expenditure include donated services received during the year valued at £9,870 (2024: £13,230) of which £510 (2024: £270) was for repairs and maintenance, £200 (2024: 3500) was for website design, £3,600 (2024: £3,600) was for rent-waiver, £3,000 (2024: £2,400) for counselling fees, £2,560 (2024: £1,460) for Therapist fees and none (2024: £5,000) was for office equipment.

The financial statements comprising of the Receipts and Payments Summary and Statement of Assets and Liabilities were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 6/5/2026

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees

WV Will  
Signature

WILL WILLIAMS  
Name  
Trustee

6/5/2026

**BABONS CANCER SUPPORT**

England & Wales - Charity number 1204376

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# Accounts

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## **Babons Cancer Support**

**147 High Street**

**Tonbridge**

**Kent**

**TN9 1DH**

**Charity Number: 1204376**

**Annual Report and unaudited Financial Statements**

**Year Ending 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Approved by the Board of Trustees**

**at the Annual Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

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**Administrative Information**

Status	Babons Cancer Support was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the Charity Commission on 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2023, under charity number 1204376.
Co-Founders	Mrs Heidi Spickernell-Foad Miss Tracy Spickernell Mr Douglas Spickernell
Board of Trustees	Mr Neil Williams (Chair) Mr Matt Gent Mrs Louise Burgess Mrs Heidi Spickernell-Foad Miss Tracy Spickernell
Registered Office	Babons Cancer Support 147 High Street Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1DH 01732 711634 <a href="http://www.babons.org.uk">www.babons.org.uk</a>
Independent Examiner	Shruti Soni Ltd 117A St John's Hill Sevenoaks TN13 3PE
Bank	Co-operative Bank Business Customer Services PO Box 4931 Swindon SN4 4PL

## **Report of the Board of Trustees for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

The Board of Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and Financial Statements comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (Effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019).

### **How Babons Cancer Support came to be**

Babons Cancer Support has been created in memory of Jean Spickernell (called "Babon" by her grandchildren) who lost her life to cancer in 2022. Jean was a "pocket rocket" who loved her community and always looked for ways to help others even when she needed help herself.

Her family had experience of supporting the cancer community through counselling, but then in 2020 the stories they were hearing from others became their own as Jean was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Whilst dealing with this devastating diagnosis, the journey they experienced as a family highlighted just how much help was needed, and how fast things changed on a daily basis with Jean's care. They felt very alone as a family, with no one there to guide them through.

With this in mind, support for the local cancer community was very close to Jean's heart. She shared her desire for something to be set up locally so that others going through something similar to her were able to be supported and cared for. Sadly, she did not live long enough to see it happen, but her family took up the baton and BABONS was born.

**Bringing A Bit Of Needed Support**

### **Objectives and Activities**

The mission and purpose of the charity is laid out in the Charity's Constitution held by the Charity Commission in the UK and can be viewed online on the Charity Commissions web site [The Charity Commission - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission)

The objects of the CIO are:

For the public benefit, the relief of need of those suffering or recovering from cancer, their family members and carers or people otherwise impacted by cancer, living in or around the Kent area, primarily by:

- i. The provision of counselling services
- ii. The provision of advice and assistance to aid access to other health and social care services and support; and
- iii. By raising awareness of the challenges face by those living with a cancer diagnosis

Our objective is to provide support, outside of medical interventions, for the local cancer community primarily in Tonbridge, Kent.

Babons Cancer Support offers a variety of sessions and workshops designed to provide a safe space at our Drop-in Cancer Support Centre to talk about cancer whether they are the patient, carer, family member, colleague or friend.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The day-to-day control of Babons Cancer Support is carried out by the two co-founders and trustees Mrs H. Spickernell-Foad and Miss Tracy Spickernell and is supported by Mr Douglas Spickernell.

The Board of Trustees, under the Chair of Mr Neil Williams, met regularly throughout the year and approved the Annual Report and Accounts at the Annual General Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

Babons Cancer Support has initiated and maintains 26 policies including the following:

Adult Safeguarding policy

Child Safeguarding policy

Confidentiality policy

Data Protection and GDPR policy

Health & Safety policy

Safer Recruitment policy

Volunteer policy

### **Statement on Public Benefit**

The objectives and activities, and achievement and performance sections of this report clearly set out the activities which the charity undertakes for the public benefit. The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the charity.

### **Major Risks**

Babons Cancer Support Trustees regularly monitor and assess the major risks to which the charity has the potential to be exposed. Any risks identified are discussed at Trustee meetings and suitable measures put in place to mitigate those risks. All discussions and decisions made are recorded in the Trustee Minutes.

### **Achievements and Performance**

The first significant achievement was made in 2023 following the granting of charity status. This was the search for suitable premises for Babons Cancer Supports Drop-In Centre.

Our aim was to find somewhere that had good connections with various transport facilities, on a ground floor so there was easy access for wheelchairs and those with limited mobility, and that had space within our budget that would provide facilities to enable a safe space for clients to just “drop in” to rest, to talk and to have tea or coffee.

In 147 High Street, Tonbridge we found all those things, and room for 3 counselling rooms, a lounge area, toilet and kitchen facilities along with a small area of parking at the rear that can be reserved for clients with mobility issues. We had to completely redecorate and restructure the internal layout of the premises and opened to the public on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Our counselling service, led by our qualified lead counsellor and supported by 3 trainee counsellors provide up to 12 counselling sessions free of charge to clients accessing this service. Clients are given an initial counselling assessment before starting their therapy.

At the end of November 2024, we had some 50 clients registered on our books.

Numerous other unregistered members of the public call in, both to find out what we do and to talk to one of our volunteer listeners in a quiet environment. We’ve also had people simply drop-in to have a cup of tea while reading a book or bringing their own creative activity to do simply to have some respite from their home environment for a couple of hours.

Volunteers play a vital role in all areas of what we do, without them we would not be able to operate. Currently we have 21 volunteers regularly working in the centre.

Cancer has a big impact on all areas of life, including mobility, finances, as well as the ability to think clearly while trying to navigate through the government and local authority systems during times of distress. As a result, several of our volunteers have been trained to help clients with BLUE badge applications and PIP (Personal Independence Payments) applications. Working closely with the local Citizens Advice Bureau team has enabled us to provide a more rounded, greater level of support to the local cancer community.

Several therapeutic support groups are run throughout the year, Clients can keep up with these via our social media.

These groups are:

- **WomanKind** - For women with any cancer diagnosis, past or present.
- **Men Talk** - For men with any cancer diagnosis, past or present.
- **Lean On Me** - For those caring for a loved one with cancer.
- **Starlights** - For people who have lost someone to cancer.
- **Over The Rainbow** - For people of the LGBTQI+ community impacted by cancer.
- **SOAR** - is our support group for 7-15yr olds - Through games and creative activities, children and young people impacted by cancer can access support every Wednesday during term time after school, 4.00pm to 5.30 pm

Currently we are working alongside the Tonbridge Citizens Advice Bureau, at the local community project called “Living Well” based at St Stephens Church, Tonbridge. We have a presence at the project so that we are working alongside other local charities to provide easily accessible joined up support where needed.

In September 2024 we began to supply the facilities to host Look Good Feel Better Workshops, a national campaign. At Babons, they run monthly confidence boosting workshops for women, men and young people with cancer. ([www.lgfb.co.uk](http://www.lgfb.co.uk)).

Alongside this, we have been invited to attend the local Farmers Market in Hildenborough where we have a monthly information and gift stall. This enables us to have a face in the local community to support people who may not necessarily know what we are about whilst also giving us the opportunity to raise some extra funds and donations.

**Other services we have available at our centre are:**

- A confidential Bra fitting service, delivered voluntarily by a qualified professional, for those impacted by Breast Cancer.
- A confidential Wig & Hair Advice service, delivered voluntarily by a qualified professional, for those who experience hair loss as a result of treatment for cancer.
- Pamper People sessions, given voluntarily by a qualified nail technician. These are times for clients to escape cancer for an hour and have their nails done using oncology approved products.
- A free Drop-in service is held at centre, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. Anyone impacted by cancer can drop in for a cuppa and a chat. This is for the patient, carer, family member, colleague or friend. No appointment needed.
- 12 creative counselling sessions can be accessed free of charge with a qualified Art Therapist. These can be accessed by children, young people and adults.

During our first year our fundraising opportunities have evolved. As well as applying for Grants, the work we have done in our local community has led to the development of some important relationships but also unexpected financial support. These include Tonbridge Lions, Marks & Spencer (Tonbridge), Specsavers (Tonbridge), Cook (Tonbridge), Probus Women, Tonbridge WI and Legacies.

Alongside these, individuals and local businesses have chosen us as their charity to fundraise for, including two local schools' own clothes days/awareness projects, 4 half-marathon runners, 1 sponsored walk, several raffles and donations of supplies for our therapy sessions.

We have created 2 very successful fundraising events which raised £3,500 profits along with a completely different clientele database. Following on from these successes we plan to hold 3 further events in the coming financial year.

We recognise that spreading the word to our local community, so that the people who need our Support know where to find us and walk through our door goes hand in hand with raising the finances to ensure that the support needed can be given.

### **Financial Review**

Our initial bank balance started with a £50,000 donation.

We have worked hard in two specific areas:

1. Growing the awareness of Babons Cancer Support which helps to encourage donations and legacies.
2. Generating funds by applying for grants, receiving donations and targeted fundraising events within the community.

During the period February 2024 to end of November 2024 we have generated additional income to the value of just over £35,000. This has been achieved over 10 months. Total income for the year is £98,332.

In renovating our Centre, we spent approx. £12,000, we had salary costs of £24,000 (includes wages and ancillary costs). Total expenditure during the year amounted to £75,500.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees keep cash reserves of around 6 month operating costs with the bank.

As a small charity it is imperative that we keep a close eye on our income and expenditure so that we can service our local cancer community effectively and compassionately. It is early days for us to be able to forecast a reliable pattern.

### **What does the future hold?**

As a Charity we have made great strides in 2024 getting our name and support services out to our local community. Continuing with this and building on the work so far is paramount. We have capacity for increased use of the centre at Babons Cancer Support, and by increasing our profile is already showing an increase of foot-fall week on week.

We believe strongly in client service and during 2025 we will continue to look at what we offer and ensure that service means our clients come first and are cared for to the best of our abilities within our competencies.

We are looking to consolidate and build on the services we have begun in our first year, growing our counselling service and therapeutic support groups especially. We expect these to develop in 2025. There will also be a focus on how we reach men so that they can be supported more under this banner.

The intention is to offer our volunteers / listeners additional training, so they can help clients more with their enquiries.

Heidi Spickernell-Foad, heads up the Fundraising and a lot of the day-to-day admin. In 2025 we aim to free up her general admin time so she can get out in the community to network and continue building relationships there on behalf of the charity, as well as give focussed time to fundraising.

In 2024 we engaged in various activities that served as fundraising and awareness increasing events. We have a full programme of these types of events for Babons in 2025, ranging from quiz nights, egg hunts, summer fetes, a comedy night, and a fantastic number of Christmas Fairs starting in November 2025.

In 2026 we have secured a place in the London Marathon.

The aim in 2025 is to strengthen relationships with both Maidstone and Pembury hospital cancer departments, something we started in 2024. We also will be doing the same with GP surgeries. We can support them by providing extra help in the community.

We have learnt a lot in 2024 and must build on that in 2025. In the next couple of months, the Founders and Trustees will be meeting to discuss a document that outlines possible developments for 2025 and beyond.

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Trust's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed Neil V Williams (Trustee)

31/3/2025

Name NEIL V WILLIAMS

# Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Babons Cancer Support

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 November 2024 which are set out on pages 14 to 15.

## Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

## Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

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.

*Shruti Soni*

**Shruti Soni FCCA FCIE**

Shruti Soni Ltd ● Chartered Certified Accountants  
117a St. John's Hill, Sevenoaks TN13 3PE

Date: 01 April 2025

**Babons Cancer Support**  
**Receipts and payments accounts**  
**For the period ended 30 November 2024**

	<b>16/08/2023 to 30/11/2024</b>		
	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
Grants and donations	83,208	2,750	85,958
Fundraising income	12,374	-	12,374
<b>Total Receipts</b>	95,582	2,750	98,332
<b>Payments</b>			
Wages and other staff cost	24,669	-	24,669
Rent and Insurance	13,181	-	13,181
Repairs and Maintenance	10,822	-	10,822
Charity formation	1,360	-	1,360
DBS expenses	649	-	649
Membership	750	-	750
Miscellaneous expenses	9,499	-	9,499
Office equipment	5,000	-	5,000
Professional cost	4,360	-	4,360
Telephone and IT equipment	2,065	-	2,065
Travel expenses	136	-	136
Utilities	3,009	-	3,009
<b>Total payments</b>	75,500	-	75,500
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	20,082	2,750	22,832
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	-	-	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	20,082	2,750	22,832

# Babons Cancer Support

## Statement of assets and liabilities

at the end of the period 30 November 2024

Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Cash at bank and on hand	£20,082	£2,750	£22,832
	£20,082	£2,750	£22,832
Office equipment (donation in kind)	£5,000		
Debtors - HMRC gift Aid due	£1,294		
Creditors - accruals	£1,123		

### Related party transactions

Tracy Spickernell, charity Trustee, is employed as a qualified councillor and was remunerated £20,907 during the year. No other charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity.

There are no other related party transactions to disclose for 2024

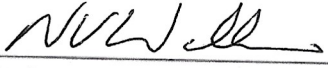
There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business.

### Donation in kind

Total unrestricted income and expenditure include donated services received during the year valued at £13,230 of which £270 was for repairs and maintenance, £500 was for website design, £3,600 was for rent-waiver, £2,400 for counselling fees, £1,460 for Therapist fees and £5,000 was for office equipment.

The financial statements comprising of the Receipts and Payments Summary and Statement of Assets and Liabilities were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees

  
Signature

31/3/2025

NEIL V WILLIAMS  
Name  
Trustee