

EXETER SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND
Registered Charity Number 202846

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31st MARCH 2023

EXETER SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND
Charity No.202864

STATEMENT OF THE TRUSTEES AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1ST APRIL 2021 TO 31ST MARCH 2023

The Charity's principal address is that of Mr Andrew Densham, 15 Hadrian Drive, Exeter, EX4 1SR

Members of the Executive Committee act as Trustees of the Society. The Governing Document of the Charity of its Constitution. There are no special trusts or other trusts allied to the Charity.

OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

The primary objects of the Society are to assist the work of statutory authorities and voluntary organisations, and to provide and maintain recreational facilities, comforts and social services for the blind and partially sighted.

TRUSTEES AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE ACCOUNTS

The Trustees and Executive Committee are required to prepare accounts for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of its financial activities for that period. In preparing the accounts, the Committee is required to;

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Society will continue in business

The Executive Committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 1995. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2022/23 the Society resumed its programme of social events after two years of disruption due to the Covid 19 pandemic where most activities were stood down. Monthly social events have seen an increasing number of attendees returning to these events. The annual Christmas Dinner was a great success at the Devon Hotel with attendance from the Lord Mayor and with music from Sounds Easy. And two outings are planned over the summer months.

Three newsletters were produced and distributed to members in either large print or audio format. Our visitor has been making phone calls to members and members now have the option of a face to face visit again. The Society has continued to fund grants and donations in response to requests for financial assistance from blind or partially sighted residents of Exeter.

Signed EA Cheney Date: 30/6/23
MRS E.A.CHENEY – CHAIRPERSON

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

EXETER SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND
Charity No. 202846

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORTS ON THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Respective responsibility of the Trustees and Examiner.

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiners report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statements

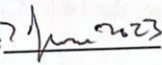
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirement to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met, or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date



BERNARD FROWD O.B.E
2 Colleton Crescent
Exeter
EX2 4DG

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

I am pleased to report on the finances of the Society for the year ended 31st March 2023.

The Society has had income of £58,238, this includes £10,666 income from the investment portfolio and a bequest of £47,572.

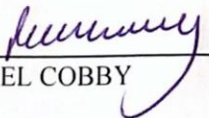
The Society has had total expenditure of £68,429 – this is significantly more than previous years and includes the following:-

- £55,000 payment into the investment fund – this includes the bequest and some of the money in the current account which has increased over the last few years due to lower than usual expenditure.
- £1,036 as an initial payment to Tozer's Solicitors – the committee decided that the 1998 constitution was very much in need of updating and advice from the solicitors was that a considerable review was required to bring it up to the standard required of the Charity Commission.
- The honorarium payments made to the Treasurer, Secretary and Visiting Officer have been reviewed and increases agreed with the committee, this is the first review in many years and reflects inflation as well as the increased work and responsibility regarding governance for the Society. Payments increased from January, the impact in 22/23 is £388 and the full year impact in 23/24 will be £1,550
- Charitable expenses are back to expected levels now that the events and outings have resumed.

The value of the Society's Investment portfolio at 31st March 2023 was £400,517. There have been a couple of significant impacts on the portfolio this year:-

- Between April and November, the value decreased from £367,983 to £338,995 this was due to turbulence in the economy caused by the Truss Government 'mini budget', interest rates and inflation.
- In February under the recommendations of the Financial Advisor, £55,000 was invested into the portfolio, the decision was also taken for the portfolio to have a fund manager allocated for more involved management of the investment. Although this costs more, it is felt that the input will improve the performance of the fund and cover any additional costs. These costs are deducted directly from the fund.
- Since November the fund has increased by £61,522 which includes the £55,000 payment in but indicates growth above that value.
- The net impact over the whole year is £32,534 increase in value.

Mr Bernard Frowd has very kindly offered to do the independent examination however this is the last year that Barnard will be auditing the accounts – the society is immensely grateful for all that Bernard has done to support the Society for many many years.

Signed 
MRS RACHEL COBBY

Date: 14-7-2023

EXETER SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

Charity Reg. No. 202846C

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023

		2022-23 £	2021-22 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
	Note		
Debtors and Prepayments		0	0
CoFund Investments – at Valuation		400,517	367,983
Lloyds		12,545	22,736
Cash in hand		0	0
		<u>413,062</u>	<u>390,719</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors			
		<u>413,062</u>	<u>390,719</u>
REPRESENTED BY			
Accumulated Fund Brought Forward		390,719	379,499
Revaluation of Co-Fund Investments	1	32,534	-800
Income and Expenditure Account		-10,192	12,021
		<u>413,062</u>	<u>390,719</u>
Accumulated Fund Carried Forward			

EXETER SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

INCOME	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Donations and Grants	47,572	10,214
Interest from Balances	10,666	9,491
Miscellaneous	0	0
	<hr/> 58,238	<hr/> 19,706
EXPENDITURE		
<u>Expenses</u>		
Honoraria	3,588	3,200
Travel	439	159
Stationary, Postage, Telephone	0	0
Insurance	206	184
Professional fees	3,797	2,766
Investment	55,000	0
	<hr/> 63,030	<hr/> 6,309
<u>Charitable</u>		
Speakers, Entertainment, Donations	315	703
Gifts & Grants	354	335
Refreshments	2,833	0
Newsletter	442	337
Rent	556	0
Transport	901	0
Outings	0	0
Sundries	0	0
	<hr/> 5,400	<hr/> 1,375
Total Expenditure	<hr/> 68,429	<hr/> 7,685
EXCESS Expenditure	<hr/> -10,192	<hr/> 12,021