

VARIETY THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY

England & Wales · Charity number 209259

Details

Other names	THE HEART OF VARIETY LIMITED, THE VARIETY CLUB CHILDREN'S CHARITY, THE VARIETY CLUB CHILDREN'S CHARITY LIMITED, VARIETY CLUB
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	00509811
Registered	1962-07-19
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Variety The Children's Charity Variety House 93 Bayham Street London
Phone	02074288100
Email	info@variety.org.uk
Website	www.variety.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1. TO PROMOTE AND PROVIDE FOR THE CARE AND UPBRINGING OF SICK, DISABLED AND DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN WITHIN THE UNITED KINGDOM; 2. THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE RELIEF OF FINANCIAL NEED OF CHILDREN WITHIN THE UNITED KINGDOM; 3. TO UNDERTAKE AND TO ASSIST OTHERS TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH INTO ANY ILLNESS OR AFFLICTION AFFECTING CHILDREN WHICH WILL ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE AND TO PUBLISH THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH; 4. THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION AND OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION FOR CHILDREN IN THE INTERESTS OF THEIR SOCIAL WELFARE WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR SUCH CHILDREN

Activities: (1) promote and provide for the care and upbringing of sick, disabled and disadvantaged children within the UK(2) advancement of education and the relief of financial need of children within the UK(3) provision of facilities for recreation and leisure time occupation for children in the interests of their social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for such children

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£6,642,590	£6,466,211	£4,008,701	20
2023-12-31	£5,546,756	£5,898,442	£3,832,322	20
2022-12-31	£5,377,560	£4,903,699	£4,184,008	18
2021-12-31	£3,687,815	£3,659,424	£3,790,147	22
2020-12-31	£3,667,806	£3,823,644	£3,696,756	34

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Carnie	Chair	2025-05-19
Andrew Gordon Geddes		2024-05-03
Benjamin Thomas Whittle		2022-02-11
Candice Sammeroff		2023-02-27
Helen Louise Davies KC		2024-05-03
Rory James de Poulton Ferguson		2026-04-20
Stefanie McLeod Reid		2025-05-19
Talya Shalson		2023-02-27
Tania Bryer		2023-05-22
Tesula Mohindra		2021-04-29

VARIETY THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 209259

Accounts

Annual report & accounts 2024



Patron

His Majesty King Charles III

Directors and trustees

The directors of the charitable company are its Trustees for the purpose of the charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

Professor Jonathan Shalit OBE

Tushar Prabhu

Tesula Mohindra

Dilly Kitchlew-Willamson

Guy Remond
(resigned 19 May 2025)

Ben Whittle

Candice Sammeroff

Talya Shalson

Tania Bryer OBE

Andrew Geddes

Helen Davies KC

Stefanie Reid MBE
(appointed 19 May 2025)

Andrew Carnie
(appointed 19 May 2025)

Chief Executive

Lisa Bond
(Interim CEO until
August 2024)

Laurence Guinness
(CEO from August 2024)

Administrative information

Secretary

Talya Shalson

Registered office

Variety House
93 Bayham Street
London NW1 0AG

Charity number

209259 (England and Wales)
SC038505 (Scotland)

Company number

509811 (England and Wales)

Auditors

Saffery LLP
71 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4BE

Bankers

NatWest PLC
2nd Floor
Argyll House
246 Regent Street
London W1B 3PB

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IN EMERGENCY - BREAK GLASS
EMERGENCY EXIT



Chairman's letter



It is with immense pride that I present Variety, the Children's Charity's Annual Report for 2024, marking a remarkable year of achievement and transformation.

It is the year in which His Majesty King Charles III graciously accepted the Patronage of Variety, coinciding with our 75th anniversary in Great Britain. This royal endorsement stands as a testament to the trusted role Variety plays as a national children's charity meeting the needs of the UK's most vulnerable children.

The past year has been truly exceptional. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors and partners, including the outstanding contribution from Variety Golf, we delivered a record-breaking 87 Sunshine Coaches across the UK. Each coach represents not just a vehicle, but a gateway to vitally needed experiences, education, and opportunities that would otherwise remain inaccessible.

We reached a significant milestone with the delivery of our first all-electric Sunshine Coach, demonstrating our commitment to sustainability. This coach, presented to Rotherhithe Primary School and sponsored by our long-standing partner DPD, represents the future direction of our flagship programme.

Beyond our Sunshine Coaches, our wheelchair programme provided 44 bespoke wheelchairs to children in need, while our equipment grants delivered 73 pieces of specialist equipment to transform young lives. Our Access Interns programme doubled its placements, creating valuable work experiences for young people with disabilities, and our Great Days Out programme brought joy to over 9,000 children and their families.

Ensuring access to sports for our children and young people was the motivation behind The Variety Disability Sports Awards 2024 held in November. This landmark event welcomed over 300 guests including 21 ParaGB athletes and launched our "Voices for Change" campaign to increase inclusion for disabled children in sport. The initiative earned government recognition and a significant grant from Variety International, setting the foundation for our strategic goal to increase access to sports for disadvantaged and disabled children and young people.



The past year has been truly exceptional.

None of this would be possible without the extraordinary generosity of our supporters. I extend particular thanks to Variety Golf, whose exceptional fundraising delivered £1.17 million to fund 48 coaches for the Sunshine Coach programme.

We are immensely grateful to the superb contribution of Dr Michael Josephson MBE, our Honorary Chief Barker for 2024 and 2025 who raised over £500,000,

as well as to all of our corporate partners, trusts, foundations and individual donors who are too innumerable to name individually. Your support has immeasurably enriched the lives of tens of thousands of children and young people across the U.K.



We will continue to innovate and adapt to meet the needs of the children we serve.

I would also like to welcome our new Chief Executive, Laurence Guinness, who joined us in August 2024, bringing fresh vision and energy to our mission, along with our new Director of Finance and Operations, Pooja Aggarwal, who joined in December.

Led by our new CEO, 2024 saw the development of our comprehensive Theory of Change and Variety Impact Ecosystem, which will guide our decision-making and enable us to better measure and demonstrate our impact for years to come.

As I approach the end of my term as Chairman this coming December 31st, I reflect on the incredible resilience and dedication shown by our staff, volunteers, and trustees. Together, we have navigated challenging times to emerge stronger and more focused on our mission than ever before.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting disabled and disadvantaged children across the UK, with ambitious plans to expand our reach and deepen our impact. We will continue to innovate and adapt to meet the needs of the children we serve.

A strong board and governance are essential towards achieving Variety's ambitions. To this end I am delighted that following a thorough search and selection process we have appointed Andrew Carnie as Chair-Elect who will succeed me as Chair in January 2026. Andrew is the CEO of Soho House & Co and an experienced charity trustee with over 20 years' experience of growing luxury lifestyle brands.

Also joining the board as trustee is Stef Reid, British Paralympic champion, world record holder and trailblazing advocate who became the first amputee to walk London Fashion Week's catwalk and serves as trustee for Women's Sport Trust and ambassador for multiple charities.

Lastly, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to Guy Remond, who stepped down as a Trustee this year after many years of dedicated service, bringing invaluable expertise and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of the children and families we support

From the entire Variety family, I thank you for your continued support. Together, we can ensure that all children have the opportunity and support to flourish.

With gratitude,

Jonathan Shalit

Professor Jonathan Shalit, OBE
Chairman Variety, the Children's Charity

Part 1

Trustees' Report



2024 milestones at a glance

**His Majesty King Charles III
graciously accepted the
Patronage of Variety**



**We delivered a record-
breaking 87 Sunshine
Coaches across the UK**



**We took delivery of our first
all-electric Sunshine Coach**



**We granted 44 bespoke
wheelchairs to children
in need and 73 pieces of
specialist equipment to
transform young lives**





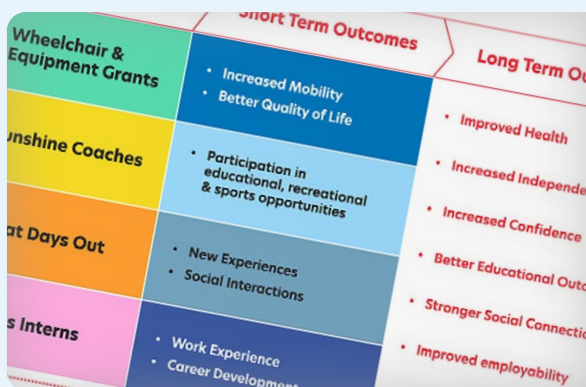
Over 9,000 children, young people and their families enjoyed a **Variety Great Day Out**



Our **Access Interns** programme doubled its placements, creating valuable work experiences for young people with disabilities

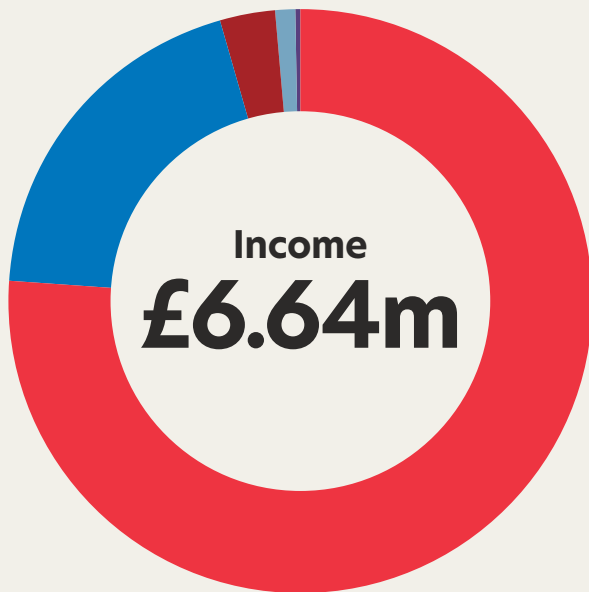


The **Variety Disability Sports Awards 2024** welcomed over 300 guests including 21 **ParaGB** athletes

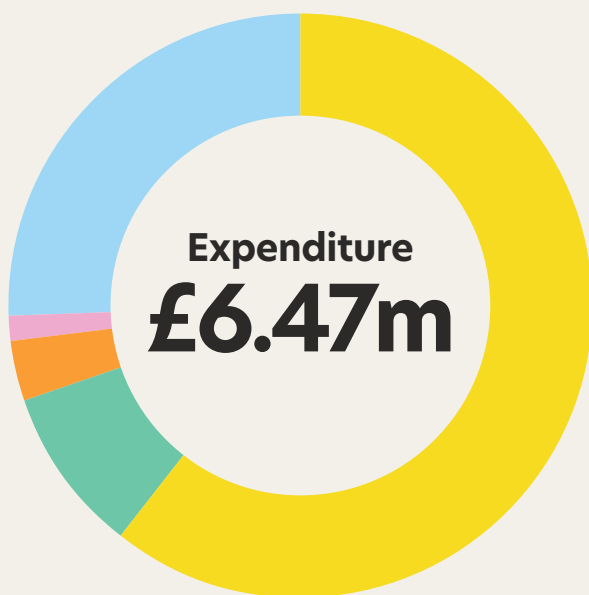


We developed our **Theory of Change** and **Variety Impact Ecosystem**, which will guide our decision-making and help us to demonstrate our impact

How we raised and spent our funds in 2024



- Donations (£5.06m)
- Turnover of trading subsidiary (£1.29m)
- Legacies and bequests (£203k)
- Donated goods and services (£77k)
- Investments (£12k)



Charitable activities and raising funds

- Sunshine Coaches (£3.92m)
- Wheelchairs and equipment grants (£593k)
- Variety Great Days Out (£211k)
- Access Interns (£92k)
- Raising funds (£1.65m)
£660k of which are the costs of holding fundraising events

Objectives and activities

The legal objects of the charity, as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the governing document of Variety, are as follows:

- To promote and provide for the care and upbringing of sick, disabled and disadvantaged children up to the age of nineteen within the United Kingdom.
- The advancement of education and the relief of financial need of children within the United Kingdom.
- To undertake, and to assist others to undertake, research into any illness or affliction affecting children which will advance knowledge and to publish the useful results of such research.
- The provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation for children in the interests of their social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for such children.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the trustees have given due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The History of Variety

Variety was formed in 1928 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. On Christmas eve the year before, a baby named Catherine was found abandoned in the Sheridan Theatre by members of the "Variety Club", an informal group of leading businessmen across all aspects of the entertainment industry. The Variety Club decided to adopt her, named her 'Catherine Variety Sheridan' and launched a children's charity in her honour. Its first Dinner was staged in a ballroom decorated like a Big Top circus tent, from which followed the terminology of "Tents" and "Barkers".

The charity was brought to the UK in 1949 by HRH, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and Frank Sinatra and inaugurated at a dinner at the Savoy Hotel in London.

In May 2024, His Majesty King Charles III graciously accepted the Patronage of Variety, the Children's Charity. This historic milestone coincided with Variety's 75th anniversary and stands as a testament to the trusted role that Variety plays as a national children's charity meeting the needs of the UK's most vulnerable children and young people.

Variety's Mission

When statutory funding cannot adequately meet a child's needs, Variety steps in.

Variety provides practical, life-changing support to disabled and disadvantaged children across the UK.

There are currently 4.3 million children living in poverty in the UK, with 600,000 children both disabled and living in poverty. Variety's programmes make an immediate and lasting difference to disabled and disadvantaged children and young people by directly improving their wellbeing and quality of life. As well as improving physical and mental health, Variety's support enables children to reach their full potential.

Variety supports children and young people through the four key programmes, right. The next few pages show our activities in these areas over the past year.



Wheelchair & Equipment Grants

We directly provide manual, sport, and powered wheelchairs to help children become more independent. We also deliver life-changing equipment including specialised educational and adaptive play equipment, hoists, walkers, beds, furniture and specialist car seats.



Sunshine Coaches

We provide fully accessible, adapted minibuses for SEND schools and non-profit organisations. Our Sunshine Coaches are valuable community assets, opening up a world of opportunities, enabling tens of thousands of children to access life-changing experiences every day.



Variety Great Days Out

We provide unforgettable, exciting, educational, and fun experiences for disadvantaged children.



Access Interns

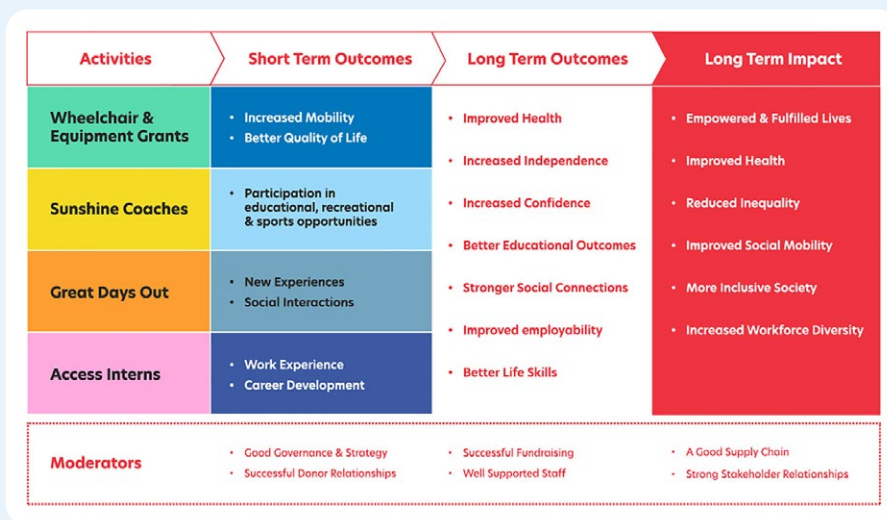
Our supported work experience programme, in partnership with the Kartik Foundation, partners with companies big and small to empower young people with disabilities to kickstart their careers.

Variety's Impact

In 2024, Variety developed and launched a comprehensive *Theory of Change* and *Impact Ecosystem* to better articulate how Variety's work creates meaningful change for disabled and disadvantaged children and young people across the UK.

This robust framework maps the journey from the inputs and activities to the outcomes and long-term impact Variety aims to achieve. It provides a clear line of sight between the resources invested, the programmes delivered, and the transformative changes experienced by Variety's children and young people.

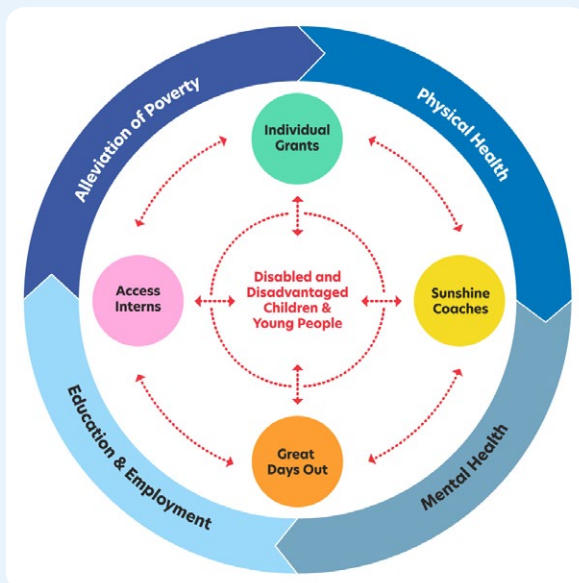
Variety's new *Theory of Change* (above) is built upon evidence-based research and incorporates insights from beneficiaries, partners, and sector experts. It recognises that children's needs are multi-dimensional and interconnected, requiring holistic support across mobility, education, health, and experiences. By addressing these interconnected needs, Variety can achieve greater impact than through isolated interventions.



The *Impact Ecosystem* (below) provides a structured approach to measuring and evaluating Variety's work, with clearly defined metrics and indicators that enable progress to be tracked against goals. This system facilitates Variety to not only demonstrate accountability but also to continuously learn and improve our programmes.

Working with dedicated research volunteers from the

London School of Economics, Variety has developed a taxonomy of disability, health conditions, and equipment that standardises Variety's application processes, streamlines decision-making, and ensures consistent resource allocation. This taxonomy will help Variety to better target funding, prioritise high-impact needs, and tailor support to children's specific requirements.



Wheelchairs & Equipment Grants

Our grants programmes improve children and young people's mental and physical wellbeing, reduce loneliness and social isolation, enable independence and mobility, increase participation in sport, contribute to sustained improvements in health and physical development and more.

Wheelchair Grants

In 2024 Variety provided 44 wheelchair grants at an average of £4,470 each, totalling £196,693.

The right wheelchair can offer independence to a child or young person, giving them the freedom to explore their environment in their own way, get around at school, keep up with their friends and take part in social activities, sports and hobbies.

£4,470

Average wheelchair grant given

We know that a wheelchair has to be appropriate for each child's needs and environment, however, and this is why we part and fully fund a range of different manual, powered and sports wheelchairs according to the individual's age, medical condition and lifestyle.

In 2024 we continued to fund a variety of wheelchair types including manual wheelchairs, powered wheelchairs, sports wheelchairs, all terrain wheelchairs and standing wheelchairs.





George's story

"I have a condition called Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 2, which makes my muscles weaker. I have never walked and use a wheelchair full time.

Variety helped me by purchasing my specialist lightweight manual wheelchair which I use along with my powerchair. Using a manual chair is extremely important for me as it keeps my muscles in use and maintains the strength I have with my condition.

Lightweight chairs like mine are not available on the NHS. Without mine, I most definitely wouldn't have kept the upper body strength that I have today. It also gives me a much needed workout and keeps my respiratory muscles healthy."

“

Donations like George's wheelchair take so much pressure off already stressed families. The cost of equipment is high and having the right chair can mean the difference between your child's health deteriorating or not.

Lucy, George's mum

Special Equipment Grants

Variety continued its vital work in 2024 providing special equipment grants to disabled and disadvantaged children. This equipment transforms the lives of often exceptionally vulnerable children whose families would not otherwise be able to afford the equipment provided.

The Individual Grants Programme successfully delivered 73 awards totalling £161,765. The grants covered diverse specialised equipment similar to previous years, including sensory items, specialist beds, mobility aids, and adaptive play equipment including; 20 sleeping and safe space systems, specialist seating, beds and cots, 36 items of sensory, bathroom and outdoor equipment and 29 items comprising of physiotherapy devices, mobility devices and accessories.

£161K

Given over 73 individual grants

Jake's story

Jake lives with his mum, Nichola, his dad, and his younger brother, Alex. He is a happy young boy who enjoys sensory activities. Jake was diagnosed with Autism when he was four years old, he also has Global Developmental Delay, meaning that as a 10 year old he has the mental age of a three year old. He needs help with his day-to-day life, including with going to the toilet and putting himself to bed. Jake struggles to leave the house and with people coming into his house. As he often cannot communicate his needs and feelings, he will have a meltdown when there is a change in routine.

However, the family's home life completely changed when they received a projector system from Variety. The projector system responds to movement to provide sensory stimulation through interactive games, quizzes, and virtual painting. It helps to calm Jake down and allows him to regulate his emotions.

Jake's mum, Nichola, said: "It's just been amazing to see him and to actually see him playing and doing something that he enjoys. It's really amazing to see, and we haven't had a meltdown this week, so that's even better. I think he's just really happy.

"I'm just in shock that it is actually here and we've got it because never in a million years did I think he'd get it as there was no way we could afford it. I'm very, very grateful to Variety for everything that they've done for our family because it's just going to be a massive change for our lives."



He comes home from school and he can't wait to go on the projector. He's been interacting with his brother and they've been playing together. He's actually asking for it rather than making sounds and pointing. He's actually pointing to it and saying 'on please', so I think it's a massive communication thing for him. There are quizzes and things on it for him, so I think it will open up his speech.

Nichola, Jake's mum



IN EMERGENCY
PULL UP BLACK
HANDLE INSIDE
DOOR AND PULL
DOOR TO OPEN
→

the 5



Having their own coach enables schools and organisations to plan recreational or educational trips with confidence, knowing that vulnerable pupils can safely and comfortable travel in a familiar environment.



Sunshine Coaches

In 2024 Variety delivered to our beneficiaries a record-breaking 87 Sunshine Coaches at a cost of £3,646,214.

48 of these coaches were made possible through the fantastic achievements of Variety Golf, an unincorporated society mandated in 2020 to raise funds to provide Variety Sunshine Coaches through golf related fundraising activities.

This represents the highest number of coaches delivered in over 12 years, reflecting both the increased demand due to reduced school funding and the absence of alternative funders, as well as Variety's operational delivery focus and dedication to this vital programme.

Variety's famous Sunshine Coaches are specially adapted, accessible minibuses that cater for SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) schools and other non-profit organisations working with disabled and disadvantaged children and young people.

Variety's Sunshine coaches ensure that youngsters have the opportunity to explore places they would otherwise never visit, experience different learning environments and gain life skills outside the classroom – all while supporting physical, social and language development.

Having their own coach enables schools and organisations to plan recreational or educational trips with confidence, knowing that vulnerable pupils can safely and comfortably travel in a familiar environment.

1st

all electric Sunshine Coach was delivered in 2024

Two significant milestones were achieved in 2024. The first in December with the delivery of Variety's first all-electric Sunshine Coach to Rotherhithe Primary School/Nexus Education Schools Trust (NEST), sponsored by DPD at their flagship Sustainable Depot in Docklands, London. This marked not only the culmination of Variety's 75th anniversary celebrations but also DPD's 83rd Sunshine Coach delivered over a partnership spanning 30 years.

The second milestone was the delivery of the 50th Sunshine Coach sponsored by the St. James's Place Charitable Foundation, marking a substantial contribution to Variety's mission. This remarkable achievement was celebrated with a special presentation ceremony in September, with the St. James's Place Charitable Foundation committing over £340,000 to Variety's Sunshine Coach program during the year. We are delighted that the Foundation has pledged several more Sunshine Coaches for 2025, reaching their 55th Sunshine Coach -demonstrating their long-term commitment to improving children's lives across the UK.



At The Brook Special School in Haringey, Headteacher Maureen leads a community of 140 children with severe special educational needs. With 64% of students on free school meals, most families face financial hardship.

“For some children, their very first trip to the beach was made possible by the Sunshine Coach.” said Maureen. “These outings create unforgettable memories and help children connect with the world beyond school. Beyond the fun, the bus plays a vital role in preparing the children for independent life. Trips to the supermarket teach them how to choose food, pay for items, and navigate public spaces – skills that will be crucial as they grow older. These outings help bridge the gap between school and the wider world, fostering confidence and self-sufficiency.”

“

For our children, this Sunshine Coach represents far more than just a vehicle – it is their ticket to adventure, learning, and a brighter future.

Maureen Duncan, Headteacher
at The Brook Special School



Variety Great Days Out

In addition to our grant-giving programmes, Variety also provides memorable and valuable childhood experiences through Variety's Great Days Out programme.

The programme improves wellbeing in children and young people by reducing social isolation and increasing participation in previously inaccessible experiences. Variety achieves this by removing barriers to opportunities, by building social skills and increasing confidence.

The Great Days Out programme continues to bring joy to children across the UK. In 2024, this included three Christmas parties supported by Lumistella sponsorship in Warrington, Sheffield, and Milton Keynes, with 750 children attending.

In total 9093 children, young people and their families enjoyed a Variety Great Day Out in 2024.

Parents and carers consistently report the positive impact these experiences have on the children, allowing families to enjoy quality time together away from the stresses of daily life.



Access Interns Programme

Launched in October 2022, in partnership with The Kartik Foundation, the Access Interns Programme has made substantial strides in its second year.

The initiative is designed to support disabled and disadvantaged young people in accessing corporate internships and work experience, fostering empowerment and enhancing their employment prospects.

In 2024, the programme successfully placed six interns – a notable improvement from the previous year, where as a pilot programme only three interns were placed. It has partnered with a diverse range of corporate organisations that hosted interns for four-week placements.

Notably, half of the internships offered and accepted were paid opportunities. Furthermore, 83% of interns reported that their placements were highly relevant to their intended career paths. Most importantly, all interns indicated they would strongly recommend the programme.



Access Interns Corporate Internship Case Study

In July 2024, John, a 19-year-old intern with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), was placed with a leading engineering consultancy. John was placed in the Bidding and Marketing teams, providing a unique opportunity to explore the corporate environment for the first time.

John's ASD presented specific challenges in the workplace, including difficulties with social interactions, sensory processing, and navigating new and complex environments. Recognising these challenges, Variety worked closely with the company to implement several reasonable adjustments to support John: a structured onboarding process with clear written instructions, weekly check-ins with the programme tutor for ongoing support, and a quieter workspace to reduce sensory overload.

John adapted really well to the corporate environment and completed meaningful work including reviewing bid questionnaires, creating UK mapping projects, and designing marketing materials. By the end of the internship, John had grown comfortable with the corporate setting and gained enough confidence to consider pursuing a career in the corporate sector following university, demonstrating how appropriate support can lead to transformative experiences for young people with disabilities.

100%

of interns indicated they would strongly recommend the programme

Looking ahead to Summer 2025, several colleges and sixth forms have expressed interest and have already enrolled their students. We anticipate doubling our 2024 intake and establishing new relationships and partnerships with educational institutions such as Morley College, Westminster Council, and Holland Park School, among others.

We are proud to be collaborating with new corporate employers who share our vision and commitment to creating clear and meaningful pathways to employment for young people with disabilities.



Fundraising & campaigning activities

Variety does not receive government or statutory funding/contracts and is therefore greatly dependent on voluntary funds from our varied supporters.

Variety has an ethical and transparent approach to fundraising, and is a proud member of the Fundraising Regulatory Scheme and the Institute of Fundraising, adhere to all relevant standards. Variety did not use the services of professional fundraisers in 2024, nor did we carry out any 'door to door' fundraising in the year.

During the 2024 financial year we did not receive any complaints regarding our fundraising activities, but in the event of receiving a complaint of this nature, we follow a strict complaints procedure.

Notable events, donations and funders

Variety raises funds through a range of activities but principally through corporate and individual donations, fundraising events, wills and legacies, trusts, foundations and community fundraising including challenge events.

Variety's fundraising events are carried out through the charity's wholly owned subsidiary company, Variety Events Limited. The company's net profit is donated to Variety, the Children's Charity.

The Trustees wish to acknowledge with heartfelt thanks all of Variety's donors and supporters without whom so many disabled and disadvantaged children across the UK would not receive the help and support they need to flourish.



Significant donations in 2024

The Variety Club Showbusiness Awards

The Variety Club Showbusiness Awards is one of the UK's most prestigious entertainment awards ceremonies, with a rich heritage dating back to the 1950s.

In 2024, the awards celebrated outstanding achievements across the entertainment industry while raising income of £311,000 for Variety, the Children's Charity.

The 2024 awards at The Londoner Hotel saw a star-studded evening hosted by Amanda Holden, with brilliant entertainment from Alfie Boe and Marisha Wallace, supported by the Leo Green Orchestra. Award recipients included Dame Joan Collins, James Corden OBE, Jane McDonald, Kate Garraway, Bradley Walsh, Sheridan Smith OBE, Abbey Clancy & Peter Crouch, Kelly Hoppen, Rochelle Humes, Brook & Jess, Alfie Boe, Richard and Patricia Caring, Global Media & Entertainment Group

Variety Golf contributed c£1.176m to the Sunshine Coach programme. The Trustees and Staff of Variety wish to express their admiration and appreciation to Variety Golf for their tireless efforts in raising funds for Variety's Sunshine Coach Programme. They make a hugely important contribution to the work of Variety.

The Bingo Association donated over £109,000.

St James's Place Charitable Foundation contributed significantly, with a total of £340,596 secured for 2024, supporting our Sunshine Coaches programme.

Corporate supporter **Accessible Retail** donated £50,000.

The Variety Disability Sports Awards 2024 raised over £55,000 net of costs while showcasing the achievements of disabled athletes and launching our "Voices for Change" campaign.

The annual London PROPS Awards raised approximately £375,000 net of costs maintaining its position as the UK's longest-standing property awards lunch.

The North West PROPS Awards raised approximately £315,000 net of costs and sponsored four Sunshine Coaches.

The Legends of Industry Awards 2024 raised £72,000 net of costs, celebrating outstanding achievements in business and industry.



The Chief Barker's Activities

Michael Josephson MBE was Variety's Honorary Chief Barker for 2024. A respected entrepreneur and philanthropist, Michael Josephson's greatest passion is supporting the most vulnerable children in our society. He is also our Chair of Patrons.

The Michael Josephson MBE Charity Ball, is an annual fundraising event held in the North West to raise money for children's charities. The 2024 ball raised a record-breaking amount of over £1.2 million across several charities, with Variety allocated the largest percentage amounting to £500,000. Of this, £330k is recognised in year ending December 2025 and £170k in year ended 2024.

£2.5m

raised and donated by Michael Josephson MBE since 2023

In total, since 2023 Michael Josephson MBE has been responsible for raising and donating over £2.5m to Variety. The Trustees express their heartfelt gratitude to the extraordinary efforts of Michael Josephson in support of Variety's mission.



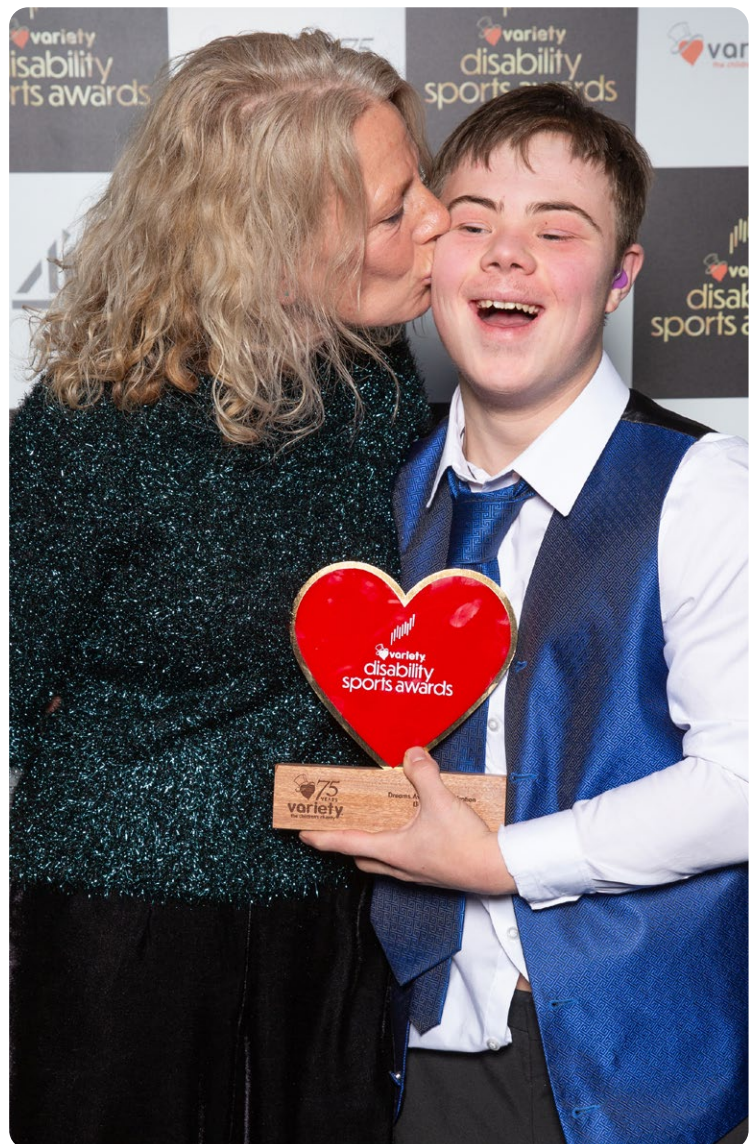
The Variety Disability Sports Awards 2024

The Variety Disability Sports Awards (VDSA) 2024 was a landmark event that successfully positioned Variety as the leading children's and young people's sports disability charity in the UK.

Held at the accessible @sohplace venue, the event celebrated inclusivity across multiple sporting disciplines, featuring over 300 guests including 21 ParaGB athletes from 16 different Paralympic sports.

The Awards launched Variety's "Voices for Change" campaign, which aims to increase inclusion for disabled children and young people in sports at all levels.

The initiative received recognition from central government, with a statement of support from the Minister for Sport and attendance by the Minister of State for Social Security and Disability. The campaign's success also earned international recognition and a \$40,000 (£37,706) grant from Variety International. Looking ahead to 2026, Variety has developed a strategic approach to maintain stakeholder engagement and expand the campaign's impact, with the ultimate goal of substantially increasing grants that support disabled children's access to sports while positioning Variety's Disability Sports Awards as the exclusive premier disability sports awards in the UK.



The Awards launched Variety's "Voices for Change" campaign, which aims to increase inclusion for disabled children and young people in sports at all levels.

Plans for 2025



We look to the future with confidence and optimism as we continue to build on the achievements of 2024.

With a new and ambitious Chief Executive, the future for Variety is exciting. In the next 12 months Variety will see the formation of a new Senior Leadership team, including a new Director of Fundraising and Communications. This role, that augments the existing Regional Fundraising Team in the North West will be instrumental in building a high performing team in London to develop new opportunities and grow revenues.

Under the leadership of the CEO, the new SLT will drive forward the mission of the charity, and will create an ambitious three-year plan to double the charitable expenditure by 2028.

2025 will also see changes to the Board, with the retirement of the current Chair and Co-Chair as their terms expire at the end of December 2025. At the time of writing this report, we are delighted to announce the appointment of Andrew Carnie, Chief Executive Officer of Soho House & Co, as Chair-Elect.

Andrew will assume the role of Chairman on 1st January 2026, bringing exceptional experience in leading globally renowned brands and a deep personal commitment to supporting disadvantaged young people.

As CEO of Soho House, Andrew has successfully driven exponential growth across 22 countries while maintaining the brand's heritage and cultural relevance. His longstanding dedication to charitable causes, particularly through his role as a Trustee of Centrepunt where he has tirelessly fundraised through ultra-endurance challenges, demonstrates his genuine passion for creating opportunities for vulnerable children.

Andrew's appointment comes at a pivotal moment as we look towards expanding our reach and impact. His proven track record in strategic leadership, combined with his extensive networks and commitment to our mission, positions Variety perfectly for continued growth in supporting disabled and disadvantaged children across the UK.

In 2025 our aim continues to be on creating sustainable growth, enabling Variety to deliver greater support for children and young people. Our plans include the following areas:



Events

Following on from the success of our 2024 events we are continuing to work on our range of flagship events across the country.

Our events for 2025 include the annual London PROPS Awards, North West PROPS Awards, Legends of Industry Awards, and the Variety Club Showbusiness Awards scheduled for October 19, 2025, at The Londoner Hotel.



The Variety Disability Sports Awards, which was a significant success in 2024, will continue its "Voices for Change" campaign throughout 2025, building towards the next awards ceremony in 2026. This initiative aims to raise awareness and engagement on access to sports for disabled and disadvantaged children and young people.

Corporate partners

We will be extending our corporate partnership programmes in 2025, both in terms of number of partners as well as the services offered. Our aim is to focus on developing strategic, multi-year partnerships rather than traditional charity of the year models that rely heavily on employee fundraising.

Key priorities include extending existing partnerships, increasing requests for unrestricted funding, and developing relationships that focus on long-term goals and measurable impact.

Trusts and Foundations

The Trusts and Foundations department's key focus areas for 2025 include cultivating relationships with major trusts and foundations and developing comprehensive impact reports to demonstrate the value of our work.

We continue to engage with previous and new potential Trust and Foundation donors, highlighting the impact of our work on our beneficiaries' lives. We are confident that we can secure significant funding to support our ongoing work.



Digital Strategy & Communications

We plan to use digital media, in conjunction with our CRM system, to engage current and prospective donors more efficiently and effectively. Our digital marketing will be targeted to build our beneficiary and volunteer networks as well as our brand awareness.

With the appointment of a new PR & Communications Manager in October 2024, we will focus on positioning Variety as a highly impactful children's charity, working at scale to provide life-transforming support for the UK's disabled and disadvantaged children and young people.

We aim to create sector-leading 'media moments' by working closely with the children and young people we support, amplifying their voices to raise awareness of growing levels of inequality and disadvantage experienced by disabled children and young people, coupled with Variety's role in providing support.

Sunshine Coach Programme

Building on the record-breaking success of 2024, the Sunshine Coach Programme has a target of delivering 100 coaches in 2025 with Variety Golf anticipating sponsoring 60 of these to celebrate their 60th anniversary.

A new fleet of 50 coaches has been ordered, with delivery expected from August 2025, ensuring we can continue to meet the growing demand for this vital service.

Several enhancements to the programme are planned for 2025, including a beneficiary handbook, a payment guide for beneficiaries, a fundraising support and sponsorship guide, a new online coach reservation form, a live tracker for the programme team and stakeholders, and an internal-use programme handbook.



75 variety

75 variety
the children's story

75 YEARS variety tv

75 YEARS variety tv

75 YEARS variety tv

75 variety

Employees and volunteers

At the end of December 2024, Variety employed 19 people (both full-time and part-time) in its offices across England and Scotland. The charity depends on the commitment and hard work of these staff, who are highly valued.

Variety also relies heavily on volunteer involvement. Volunteers assist Variety in a diverse range of roles and activities, at many levels, and throughout the UK.

Volunteers serve on committees across England and Scotland to assist in the following activities: assessing individual grant applications, assessing Sunshine Coach Applications, Co-ordinating Great Days Out and in organising and fundraising for Variety's events such as the London, Manchester and Birmingham Props Awards, Variety Disability Sports Awards and Showbusiness Awards.

The Trustees are enormously indebted to these volunteers for their continued support.

Management remuneration policy

The Chief Executive is appointed by the Trustees. All other key management personnel are appointed by the Chief Executive.

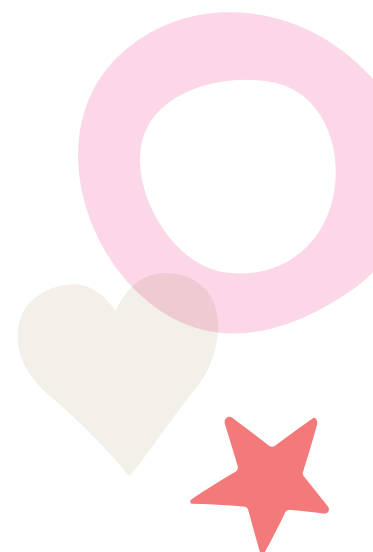
Appointments and ongoing remunerations at this level take into account the following factors:

- The charity's ability to pay the wages of senior staff.
- The types of skills, experiences and competencies the charity needs from its senior staff and the scope of the role being recruited.
- The charity's objectives and the number and nature of senior staff needed to fulfil these.
- The impact of market rates on appointments.

Equal opportunities

Variety is committed to the principle and practice of equal opportunities and aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

Variety's employment policy aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, disability, national origin, race, religion and sex or any other grounds which are unjustifiable in terms of equality of opportunity for all.



About this report

The Trustees submit their Annual Report and Financial Statements of Variety, the Children's Charity, a company limited by guarantee, for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The Trustees' Annual Report includes the Directors' Report for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and the financial statements are prepared in compliance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102), the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic Ireland and requirements of the Articles of Association which is the governing document.

Structure, governance and management

As at 31 December 2024, the charity had 11 Trustees. The trustees, who are re-elected every three years, convene at least four times each year. There is a supporting committee covering Audit, Finance and Risk which also convenes at least four times each year.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

New trustee appointments are made by the existing board of trustees. They are selected on the basis of the skills, experience and overall contribution they are able to bring to the charity.

Candidates are sourced through a variety of channels, including direct approach, referral and executive search consultants.

Once recruited, new Trustees have an induction and are provided with ongoing support and training to meet their responsibilities.

All new trustees are given guidance published by the Charity Commission on the responsibilities of being a trustee and a copy of the latest edition of the Charity Governance Code, supported and endorsed by the Commission.

Trustees' induction and ongoing involvement includes, inter alia, participation in the Charity's events and activities, meetings with staff, volunteers, donors, beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

On appointment, Trustees sign a register of interests, which is renewed annually.

The Trustees are responsible for governance, strategy, risk management, setting headline objectives and monitoring performance against these objectives. To this end, Trustees receive quarterly updates, including full reports on activities, targets, impact and financial information, including management accounts.

Strategic plans and objectives are discussed, agreed, amended and revised by the Trustees at Board meetings.

To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority, within the terms of delegation approved by the Trustees, for the operational responsibility of the charity.

Variety's new Chief Executive Officer, Laurence Guinness, was appointed in April 2024 and started in August 2024. Laurence was formerly the Chief Executive of The Childhood Trust, where he grew the charity tenfold to support vulnerable children at scale.



The key management personnel of Variety comprise the Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Management Team. The Senior Management Team welcomed Pooja Aggarwal as the new Director of Finance and Operations in December 2024. Pooja is an experienced finance Director and former auditor who previously worked at the Mayor's Fund for London and audit firms including Saffery before joining Variety, the Children's Charity as the Director of Finance and Operations in December 2024.

At the time of writing this report, Lindsey Cape, Variety's new Director of Fundraising and Communications started with the charity in May 2025. Lindsey's appointment will help Variety to achieve its growth ambitions going forward.

The Chief Executive reports on performance against the strategic and operational plans approved by the Board and meets with the Chair on a regular basis.

The Chief Executive has responsibility for recruitment and management of the Senior Management Team to ensure that programmes and values are delivered and upheld against plans and priorities agreed by the Board.

The Senior Management Team has experience in charity communications and marketing, charity programmes, fundraising, finance, HR and operations and meets on a regular basis with the Chief Executive to discuss operations and strategy.

The Trustees during the year were: Professor Jonathan Shalit OBE, Tushar Prabhu, Dilly Kitchlew-Williamson, Tesula Mohindra, Guy Remond, Ben Whittle, Candice Sammeroff, Tania Bryer OBE, Talya Shalson, Andrew Geddes (Joined May 2024), Helen Davies KC (Joined May 2024)



Financial review

The financial statements reflect the activities of Variety, the Children's Charity, and its trading subsidiary, Variety Events Limited, for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Total income for the year was £6,642,590, which includes £76,883 in gifts in kind. This represents a 20% year-on-year increase, driven by several factors. Following the appointment of a new CEO part-way through the year and other strategic recruitment in the fundraising team we have had enhanced engagement with a range of donors resulting in significantly increased donations. Our regular events such as the London Props have continued to perform strongly raising income of £579k, our props events in the North West enjoyed increased success raising income of £343k, the Variety Disability Sports Awards evolved to generate approximately £118,000 and the 2024 Showbiz awards event which did not take place in 2023 and generated income of approximately £311k.

Total expenditure for the year amounted to £6,466,211, with charitable activities accounting for £4,819,892, or 75% of total spend. When excluding the costs of fundraising events, total expenditure was £5.63 million, with charitable activities representing 86% of that amount.

Total costs increased by 10% which is mainly due to the coach programme which was significantly higher this year compared to 2023 by 38% due to the success of the Sunshine Coach programme, with 87 coaches delivered in 2024 (2023:49) against a budgeted figure of 50. In 2024, support costs fell by 23% (£265,000) due to a combination of a smaller staff team and also reflecting improved cost control measures throughout the organisation.

The charity generated a net surplus of £176,379 which was made up of a surplus on unrestricted funds of £496k and a deficit of £320k relating to restricted funds. The deficit was expected due to the build up of restricted reserves at the end of 2023 and was a result of the Charity's deliberate actions to accelerate the delivery of grants to beneficiaries and also shorten the length of the supply chain for Sunshine Coaches. The unrestricted surplus was a result of increased successful fund raising and reduced costs through operational control allowing us to build unrestricted free reserves and hence be able to designate an additional £100,000 to special equipment grants and wheelchairs in 2025. This is explained in more detail in the reserves policy.

Financial position and reserves policy

Variety's charitable giving commitments are conditional upon the raising of specific funds.

The Trustees had set a target for unrestricted free reserves of between four and six months' forecast operating and administration costs, which has been achieved.

As of December 31, 2024, the organisation-maintained reserves as follows: - Restricted funds at year end were £881,579 and unrestricted funds stood at £3,127,122 including fixed assets) Free unrestricted reserves (excluding fixed assets) are calculated at £1,052,423. In the budget for 2025, we are forecasting the operating and administration costs (including staff costs) to be approximately £1.78m which would indicate a targeted free reserves level of between £594k and £890k. Given free reserves are above this policy, the charity has designated £100,000 of unrestricted funds to the provision of special equipment grants and wheelchairs in 2025.

Cash at bank and in hand position as of 31 December 2024, stood at £1,788,584.

The charity has two significant loans: An AVIVA mortgage with £1.12M outstanding at the end of 2024, with quarterly payments continuing until March 2028 and a CBILS loan with £75K outstanding, scheduled for full repayment by June 2026

Investment policy

The charity's primary investment objective is to maintain the value of its investments.

Since 1998 the charity has owned the freehold interest in a commercial office building from which its head office operates and of which 35.51 per cent is sublet. All income arising from it is unrestricted income. In addition, certain office car parking spaces that form part of the curtilage of the freehold office building are rented out on a short-term basis.

The charity's commercial activities are undertaken by its wholly owned subsidiary, Variety Events Limited with all profits donated under Gift Aid to the charity.

Principal risks and uncertainties

There are a number of risks and uncertainties that can impact on the performance of the charity, some of which are beyond the control of Trustees. The Audit, Finance and Risk Committee meets and assesses the major risks to which Variety is exposed.

Key risks identified were as follows:

- The level of income could fall significantly, whether from donations or trading subsidiary activities as a result of increased economic pressures.
- The level of unrestricted income could fall making it difficult for the Charity to meet its ongoing expenditure.
- Successful recruitment and retention of key staff given the challenging recruiting environment.
- Price increases from suppliers, particularly affecting the Sunshine Coach programme, which would impact our ability to deliver the same level of charitable support with available funds.

- Rising demand for our services, particularly for Sunshine Coaches, due to factors such as reduced school funding and the absence of alternative funders, which presents challenges in meeting needs with current resources.

Variety mitigates these risks in a number of ways:

- Continued focus on its fundraising activities, keeping in close contact with its donors and sponsors and working on a range of events.
- In the event of a considerable drop in income whether from donations or trading subsidiary activities, the total of grants committed would be reduced (after taking into account the ability of unrestricted reserves to cover short-term shortfalls). Since grants are paid once the money becomes available, there is limited risk of financial exposure to the charity.
- Operating effective and extensive financial management which includes: an annual planning and budgeting system with an annual budget approved by the Trustees; reforecasting, at a minimum, quarterly and all significant budget variations being subject to Trustee approval.
- Holding a prudent level of unrestricted free reserves.
- Ongoing investment in our people and culture.
- Strategic planning for large orders of Sunshine Coaches to maintain pricing and ensure consistent delivery.

Going concern

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected cashflows and income and expenditure for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least a year from the date the accounts are signed. The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will be able to continue in business and meet its liabilities as they fall due. The accounts have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

Auditors

Saffery LLP are auditors of the company.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Variety, the Children's Charity, for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law 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 charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group 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 (FRS 102);
- 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;
- 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 charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.
- The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, relating to small companies.

This report of the Trustees was approved by the Board of Trustees and signed as authorised on its behalf on 28 July 2025 by:

Tushar Prabhu

Tushar Prabhu
Trustee

Date: 29 July 2025

Independent Auditor's Report





75 YEARS
Variety
the children's charity

Variety
the children's charity

Independent auditor's report to the trustees and members

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Variety, the Children's Charity (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the group and the parent charitable company as at 31 December 2024 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law.

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on pages 39-40, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the group and parent financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities:

We assessed the susceptibility of the group and parent charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company by discussions with trustees and updating our understanding of the sector in which the group and parent charitable company operate.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company include The Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

Audit response to risks identified:

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the parent charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the parent charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the parent charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the parent charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the parent charitable company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the parent charitable company, the parent charitable company's members and trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Helen Wilkie
Senior Statutory Auditor

for and on behalf of
Saffery LLP, Statutory Auditors
71 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4BE

Date: 30 July 2025

Saffery LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Financial Statements



Consolidated statement of financial activities

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income and Expenditure account) For the year ended 31 December 2024

Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income and expenditure						
Income from:						
Donations and legacies						
	1,010,726	4,050,238	5,060,964	549,367	3,706,970	4,256,337
	202,185	508	202,693	89,162	-	89,162
3	-	76,883	76,883	-	140,401	140,401
Other trading activities						
2	1,289,355	-	1,289,355	965,535	-	965,535
Investments						
	9,433	-	9,433	92,329	-	92,329
	3,262	-	3,262	2,992	-	2,992
Total	2,514,961	4,127,629	6,642,590	1,699,385	3,847,371	5,546,756
Expenditure on:						
5	1,644,681	1,638	1,646,319	1,877,135	48,945	1,926,080
	1,644,681	1,638	1,646,319	1,877,135	48,945	1,926,080
5	Charitable activities					
	22,985	3,898,858	3,921,843	40,693	2,824,346	2,865,039
	105,759	225,870	331,629	72,367	406,284	478,651
	73,126	189,628	262,754	193,903	141,170	335,073
	79,373	131,818	211,191	107,344	186,255	293,599
	92,475	-	92,475	-	-	-
	373,718	4,446,174	4,819,892	414,307	3,558,055	3,972,362
Total	2,018,399	4,447,812	6,466,211	2,291,442	3,607,000	5,898,442
Net income/(expenditure) before gain/						
	496,562	(320,183)	176,379	(592,057)	240,371	(351,686)
	(loss) on investments					
9	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Net gain/ (loss) on investments					
	496,562	(320,183)	176,379	(592,057)	240,371	(351,686)
	Net income/ (expenditure) for the year					
Reconciliation of funds						
	2,630,560	1,201,762	3,832,322	3,222,617	961,391	4,184,008
	Total funds brought forward					
14	3,127,122	881,579	4,008,701	2,630,560	1,201,762	3,832,322
	Total funds carried forward					

All amounts relate to continuing activities.

All recognised gains and losses are included in the consolidated statement of financial activities.

The notes on pages 52 to 63 form part of these financial statements.

Consolidated balance sheet

At 31 December 2024
Company number: 509811

Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets		
8 Tangible assets	1,588,346	1,633,496
9 Investments	1,605,000	1,605,000
	3,193,346	3,238,496
Current assets		
10 Debtors	745,464	568,111
Cash at bank and in hand	1,788,584	2,620,273
	2,534,048	3,188,384
11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(632,033)	(1,400,909)
Net current assets	1,902,015	1,787,475
Total assets less current liabilities	5,095,361	5,025,971
12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(1,086,660)	(1,193,649)
Total net assets	4,008,701	3,832,322
The funds of the group:		
13 Restricted funds	881,579	1,201,762
13 Unrestricted funds		
14 General funds	3,027,122	2,630,560
14 Designated funds	100,000	-
Total group funds	4,008,701	3,832,322

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The parent charity has taken advantage of the legal dispensation not to present its own income and expenditure account as permitted under Section 408(3) of the Companies Act 2006. The charity's net income for the year was £176,379 (2023: net expenditure of £351,686).

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed as authorised on its behalf on 28th July 2025 by:

Trustees

Tushar Prabhu

Tushar Prabhu

Jonathan Shalit

Prof. Jonathan Shalit OBE

The notes on pages 52 to 63 form part of these financial statements.

The charity balance sheet

At 31 December 2024

Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets		
8 Tangible assets	1,588,346	1,633,496
9 Investments	1,605,100	1,605,100
	3,193,446	3,238,596
Current assets		
10 Debtors	1,129,748	1,126,931
Cash at bank and in hand	1,174,600	1,873,626
	2,304,348	3,000,557
11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(402,433)	(1,213,182)
Net current assets	1,901,915	1,787,375
Total assets less current liabilities	5,095,361	5,025,971
12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(1,086,660)	(1,193,649)
Total net assets	4,008,701	3,832,322
The funds of the charity:		
13 Restricted funds	881,579	1,201,762
13 Unrestricted funds		
14 General funds	3,027,122	2,630,560
14 Designated funds	100,000	-
Total charity funds	4,008,701	3,832,322

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed as authorised on its behalf on 28th July 2025 by:

Trustees

Tushar Prabhu

Tushar Prabhu

Jonathan Shalit

Prof. Jonathan Shalit OBE

The notes on pages 52 to 63 form part of these financial statements.

Consolidated cash flow statement

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Notes	2024 £	2023 £
20 Net cash (used in)/ provided by operating activities	(674,328)	570,048
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	12,695	95,321
8 Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(3,853)	(15,045)
Net cash provided by investing activities	8,842	80,276
Cash flow from financing activities:		
Repayments of borrowing	(103,954)	(101,081)
Interest paid	(62,249)	(68,154)
Net cash used in investing activities	(166,203)	(169,235)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(831,689)	481,089
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	2,620,273	2,139,184
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	1,788,584	2,620,273

Analysis of changes in net debt

2024	At start of year £	Cash-flows £	Transfers £	At end of year £
Cash	2,620,273	(831,689)	-	1,788,584
Loans falling due within one year	(103,954)	103,954	(106,989)	(106,989)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(1,193,649)	-	106,989	(1,086,660)
Total	1,322,670	(727,735)	-	594,935

The notes on pages 52 to 63 form part of these financial statements.

Notes forming part of the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, subject to the revaluation of freehold and investment property. The financial statements are prepared in compliance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102), the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Variety, the Children's Charity (Variety) is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales, registered address Variety House, 93 Bayham Street, London NW1 0AG.

Variety meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Monetary amounts are presented in pound sterling as that is the functional currency of the Charity. Figures are rounded to the nearest £.

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected cashflows and income and expenditure for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least a year from the date the accounts are signed. The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will be able to continue in business and meet its liabilities as they fall due. The accounts have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

1.2 Income and expenditure

All incoming resources, including legacies but excluding governments grants, are recognised as income when Variety is entitled to the income, that it is probable the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably. The accrual model is not applicable to Government grants in accordance with SORP (FRS 102) and will be recognised based on performance related conditions.

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis and includes irrecoverable VAT. Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Grants payable are charged in the year where the offer is conveyed to the recipient except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions are no longer seen to be within the control of the Trustees. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

1.3 Donated goods and services are included in the financial statements at a valuation which is an estimate of the market value of the services provided, where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the committee members and other volunteers is not recognised. However, the Trustees' annual report provides more information about their contribution.

1.4 Expenditure on raising funds are those costs which are incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

1.5 Charitable activities include grants and donations applied for the purchase of Sunshine Coaches and electric wheelchairs, grants for the benefit of individuals, hospitals and other organisations to help sick and disabled children. These include both the direct costs and support costs relating to the various activities.

1.6 Support costs relate to costs of central activities. These are allocated to activities in proportion to staff time on the relevant activity.

1.7 Governance costs, which are included in support costs include those incurred in the governance of the Charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.8 Basis of consolidation

The consolidated accounts incorporate the financial statements of Variety, the Children's Charity (Variety) and its subsidiary undertaking, Variety Events Limited (Events), consolidated on a line by line basis.

1.9 Fund Accounting

Restricted funds: where a donor has specified a particular purpose for a donation, all transactions have been reflected within restricted funds. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds: are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

There are two funds within unrestricted funds:

- Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
 - General funds represent funds that the charity can use at its discretion to further any of its charitable objectives.
- There are no donor-imposed restrictions.

Movements in these funds are detailed in note 14 to the financial statements.

1.10 Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they exceed £500 in value and are expected to be used for more than one year. Assets costing below this threshold are expensed in the year of acquisition. Depreciation is provided on capitalised fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold building: 2% per annum

Office equipment: 20% per annum

Computer equipment: 33% per annum

1.11 Pension costs

Contributions to Variety's money purchase group personal pension plan are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the accounting period in which they are payable.

1.12 Investment property

Investment property, which is property held to earn rent and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at deemed cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.13 Financial instruments

Variety only has financial instruments and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments, including trade and other debtors, and cash and bank balances, are initially recognised at the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less impairment.

Financial assets are derecognised when (a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or (b) substantially all the risks and rewards of the ownership of the asset are transferred to another party.

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other creditors, and loans from third parties are initially recognised at the transaction price. Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods and services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Trade creditors are initially recognised at the transaction price and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Debt instruments include bank loans and mortgages. These are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.14 Critical accounting 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 period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The financial statements include the following key estimates:

The freehold property comprises three floors, two of which are occupied by Variety and the third floor is let at a commercial rent. The third floor investment property was revalued as at 31 December 2022 at £1.605m on 10 March 2023 by Robert Irving Burns Limited, 29-30 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 6LQ. The estimated market value was based on the long leasehold interest, with the previous tenancy. The trustees assessed the value of the property as at 31 December 2024 and having considered various valuation methods including a sales approach based on properties in Camden, expected rental valuation levels based on advice from local agents and a valuation using discount rates, in particular government bond rates, the Trustees are satisfied that the value of the property has not materially changed.

The Charity estimates the value of intangible income using publicly available price lists, or through direct confirmation with the suppliers of the amount that would have been charged had the gift or donated service been invoiced.

2 Net income from trading activities of subsidiary

The principal activity of the subsidiary, Variety Events Limited (company no. 02280720), is the organisation and promotion of fund-raising activities and the sale of merchandise on behalf of Variety. A summary of the results is set out below.

Unaudited accounts will be filed with Companies House. The trading subsidiary is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Profit and loss account	2024	2023
	£	£
Turnover	1,289,355	965,535
Cost of sales	(659,569)	(597,299)
Gross profit	629,786	368,236
Interest received	1,505	1,329
Administrative costs	(175,858)	(284,544)
Net profit	455,433	85,021
Gift aid donation to Charity	455,433	85,021
Retained profit	-	-

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:

Assets	885,922	852,014
Liabilities	(885,822)	(851,914)
Funds (representing 100 ordinary shares of £1 each)	100	100

A fee of £10,000 + VAT was paid to Green Room Ents Ltd for their professional support in relation to the Showbiz 2024 event.

3 Donated goods and services

	2024	2023
	£	£
Intangible Income – Gift in Kind	76,883	140,401
	76,883	140,401

Total expenditure includes £76,883 (2023: £140,401) an equivalent amount being described as Intangible Income (Gift in Kind) in the Statement of Financial Activities. This amount is in respect of Variety Great Days Out activities.

4 Analysis of staff costs, staff numbers and the cost of key management personnel

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	792,479	837,411
Social security costs	73,380	73,423
Other pension costs	50,948	52,132
	916,807	962,966

Included in the above are payments arising on termination of employments of £34,964 (2023: £45,813).

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was 20 (2023: 21).

The average monthly number of employees (full-time equivalent) during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
Fundraising	6	5
Events	3	5
Sunshine Coaches	2	2
Wheelchairs	1	1
Grants	2	2
Support	3	5
	17	20

The number of employees whose total remuneration (excluding pension) exceeded £60,000 was as follows:

	No. 2024	No. 2023
£110,000 to £119,999	-	1

The key management personnel of Variety comprises the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Management Team. There were many changes in the SMT in the year resulting in a new CEO arriving in August 2024 and the Finance Director in December 2024.

Interim arrangements were undertaken during the year whilst permanent staff were recruited.

The total combined contractual benefits of the key management personnel of Variety was £350,688 (2023: £456,065).

5 Expenditure	Direct staff costs	Grant costs (note 17)	Other direct costs	Support costs (Note 6)	Total
2024	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising donations and legacies	243,672	-	71,840	314,312	629,824
Cost of sales of trading subsidiary	-	-	659,569	-	659,569
Events support	175,814	-	-	181,112	356,926
	<u>419,486</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>731,409</u>	<u>495,424</u>	<u>1,646,319</u>
Sunshine Coaches	122,458	3,646,214	-	153,171	3,921,843
Wheelchairs	61,860	196,693	-	73,076	331,629
Equipment Grants	44,710	161,765	-	56,279	262,754
Variety Great Days Out	35,700	134,960	-	40,531	211,191
Access Interns	35,602	-	-	56,873	92,475
	<u>300,330</u>	<u>4,139,632</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>379,930</u>	<u>4,819,892</u>
	<u>719,816</u>	<u>4,139,632</u>	<u>731,409</u>	<u>875,354</u>	<u>6,466,211</u>

2023	Direct staff costs	Grant costs (note 17)	Other direct costs	Support costs (Note 6)	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising donations and legacies	233,048	-	37,587	415,397	686,032
Cost of sales of trading subsidiary	-	-	597,299	-	597,299
Events support	258,693	-	-	384,056	642,749
	<u>491,741</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>634,886</u>	<u>799,453</u>	<u>1,926,080</u>
Sunshine Coaches	70,314	2,668,751	-	125,974	2,865,039
Wheelchairs	46,399	357,769	-	74,483	478,651
Equipment Grants	40,394	205,584	-	89,095	335,073
Variety Great Days Out	33,001	209,508	-	51,090	293,599
	<u>190,108</u>	<u>3,441,612</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>340,642</u>	<u>3,972,362</u>
	<u>681,849</u>	<u>3,441,612</u>	<u>634,886</u>	<u>1,140,095</u>	<u>5,898,442</u>

6 Support Costs	Staff	Depreciation	Other	Total
2024	£	£	£	£
Governance/legal	10,749	-	87,168	97,917
Finance and administration	134,034	-	-	134,034
IT & Database	24,867	-	43,096	67,963
Office costs	-	-	80,183	80,183
Interest payable	-	-	62,249	62,249
HR/staff related costs	-	-	90,358	90,358
Media/publicity	27,342	-	172,128	199,470
Other support costs	-	49,003	94,177	143,180
	<u>196,992</u>	<u>49,003</u>	<u>629,359</u>	<u>875,354</u>

2023	Staff £	Depreciation £	Other £	Total £
Governance/legal	35,394	-	126,557	161,951
Finance and administration	155,111	-	90,000	245,111
IT & Database	24,337	-	72,126	96,463
Office costs	-	-	179,448	179,448
Interest payable	-	-	68,154	68,154
HR/Staff related costs	14,234	-	98,960	113,194
Media/publicity	52,041	-	137,061	189,102
Other support costs	-	45,981	40,691	86,672
	281,117	45,981	812,997	1,140,095

7 Net income/ (expenditure) is stated after charging:	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation		
– office equipment	24,819	21,797
– freehold building	24,184	24,184
Auditors' remuneration – audit	29,000	36,700
Auditors' remuneration – taxation and advice services	1,350	9,870
Operating lease expenditure	1,164	17,574

8 Tangible assets	Freehold land and buildings £	Office equipment £	Total £
The group and the charity			
Cost			
1 January 2024	2,279,182	104,555	2,383,737
Additions	-	3,853	3,853
Disposals	-	-	-
31 December 2024	2,279,182	108,408	2,387,590
Depreciation			
1 January 2024	686,836	63,405	750,241
Additions	24,184	24,819	49,003
Disposals	-	-	-
31 December 2024	711,020	88,224	799,244
Net book value at 31 December 2024	1,568,162	20,184	1,588,346
Net book value at 31 December 2023	1,592,346	41,150	1,633,496

9 Fixed asset investments	Notes	The group 2024 £	The charity 2024 £	The group 2023 £	The charity 2023 £
Investment in subsidiary	(a)	-	100	-	100
Investment property	(b)	1,605,000	1,605,000	1,605,000	1,605,000
		1,605,000	1,605,100	1,605,000	1,605,100

(a) Variety owns all the issued shares (100 Ordinary shares of £1 each) in Variety Events Limited, a Company which is registered and operates in England (Variety House, 93 Bayham Street, London NW1 0AG) and whose main activity is the organisation and promotion of fund-raising activities and the sale of Gold Hearts and other merchandise on behalf of Variety. These are included in the financial statements at cost. Details of the result for the year and financial position of Variety Events Limited are provided in Note 2 to the financial statements.

(b) The freehold property comprises three floors, two of which are occupied by Variety and the third floor is let at a commercial rent. The third floor investment property was revalued as at 31 December 2022 at £1.605m on 10 March 2023 by Robert Irving Burns Limited, 29-30 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 6LQ. The estimated market value was based on the long leasehold interest, with the previous tenancy. The trustees assessed the value of the property as at 31 December 2024 and having considered expected rental levels based on advice from local agents, the Trustees are satisfied that the value of the property has not materially changed.

10 Debtors

	The group 2024 £	The charity 2024 £	The group 2023 £	The charity 2023 £
Trade debtors	271,490	47,950	104,094	29,097
Amounts due from subsidiary undertaking	-	656,222	-	664,187
Other debtors	44,558	21,560	101,367	101,367
Prepayments and accrued income	429,416	404,016	362,650	332,280
	745,464	1,129,748	568,111	1,126,931

All debtors are due within one year.

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	The group 2024 £	The charity 2024 £	The group 2023 £	The charity 2023 £
Accruals for grants payable	63,042	63,042	942,556	942,556
Mortgage (secured – see note 12)	56,989	56,989	53,954	53,954
Bank loan (see note 12)	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Trade creditors	89,961	52,569	146,884	54,551
Accruals and deferred income	262,697	72,097	141,181	61,619
Other creditors	109,344	107,736	66,334	50,502
	632,033	402,433	1,400,909	1,213,182

Accruals for grants payable are as follows:

	2024 £
Wheelchairs	34,450
Sunshine Coaches	-
Equipment Grants	28,592
	63,042
	2023 £
Wheelchairs	16,104
Sunshine Coaches	906,170
Equipment Grants	20,282
	942,556

Deferred income

Deferred income comprises advance ticket sales for various events.

	The group £	The charity £
Balance as at 1 January 2024	60,842	-
Amount released to income earned	(60,842)	-
Amount deferred in year	176,450	1,000
Balance as at 31 December 2024	176,450	1,000

	The group £	The charity £
Balance as at 1 January 2023	39,201	27,201
Amount released to income earned	(39,201)	(27,201)
Amount deferred in year	60,842	-
Balance as at 31 December 2023	60,842	-

12 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
The group and the charity		
Mortgage (secured)	1,061,660	1,118,649
Bank Loan (Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan)	25,000	75,000
	1,086,660	1,193,649

Mortgage (secured)

The mortgage is secured on Variety's freehold land and building and is repayable over the remaining period of 3 years and 3 months at interest rates of 5.51% and 3.19% per annum as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
In more than one year but not more than two years	60,195	56,989
In more than two years but not more than five years	1,001,465	123,775
In more than five years	-	937,885
	1,061,660	1,118,649

The proportion of the loan to the value of the assets charged is:	33%	37%
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Bank Loan (Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan)

The Government paid the interest on the loan for the first 12 months to 9th June 2022 (Business Interruption Payment). The bank loan is repayable over the remaining period of 18 months at an interest rate of 2.09% p.a. over Base Rate

	2024	2023
	£	£
In more than one year but not more than two years	25,000	50,000
In more than two years but not more than five years	-	25,000
	25,000	75,000

13 Analysis of group net assets between funds

	2024	2024	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	3,193,346	-	3,193,346
Current assets	1,589,427	944,621	2,534,048
Current liabilities	(568,991)	(63,042)	(632,033)
Long-term liabilities	(1,086,660)	-	(1,086,660)
Total net assets	3,127,122	881,579	4,008,701
	2023	2023	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	3,238,496	-	3,238,496
Current assets	1,044,066	2,144,318	3,188,384
Current liabilities	(458,353)	(942,556)	(1,400,909)
Long-term liabilities	(1,193,649)	-	(1,193,649)
Total net assets	2,630,560	1,201,762	3,832,322

14 Movement on funds

Group and company	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024
	Opening Balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers/ gains and (losses) £	Closing Balance £
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	2,630,560	2,514,961	(2,018,399)	(100,000)	3,027,122
Designated funds	-	-	-	100,000	100,000
Total unrestricted funds	2,630,560	2,514,961	(2,018,399)	-	3,127,122
Restricted funds:					
Sunshine Coach Programme incl. Variety Golf	661,442	3,738,076	(3,917,582)	-	481,936
Wheelchair Programme	124,989	161,197	(225,870)	-	60,316
Special Purpose Funds	322,244	228,355	(304,359)	-	246,240
Kings College Hospital	93,087	-	-	-	93,087
Total restricted funds	1,201,762	4,127,628	(4,447,811)	-	881,579
Total funds	3,832,322	6,642,589	(6,466,210)	-	4,008,701
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
	Opening Balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers/ gains and (losses) £	Closing Balance £
Unrestricted funds	3,222,617	1,699,385	(2,291,442)	-	2,630,560
Restricted funds:					
Sunshine Coach Programme	417,072	3,070,805	(2,826,435)	-	661,442
Wheelchair Programme	245,075	270,190	(390,276)	-	124,989
Special Purpose Funds	206,157	506,376	(390,289)	-	322,244
Kings College Hospital	93,087	-	-	-	93,087
	961,391	3,847,371	(3,607,000)	-	1,201,762
Total funds	4,184,008	5,546,756	(5,898,442)	-	3,832,322

Sunshine Coaches Programme

The fund comprises monies raised to provide Sunshine Coaches, including funds raised by Variety Golf or contributions from Variety's Special Purpose Funds. Sunshine Coaches are presented to schools, hospitals, children's homes and other such organisations throughout the UK.

Wheelchair Programme

The Wheelchair Programme Committee raises funds to deal with the heavy demand for indoor/outdoor electric wheelchairs and sports/lightweight wheelchairs which are not currently provided by the NHS.

Special Purpose Funds

Variety works closely with donors to help them raise funds and to match those funds to suitable projects. Special Purpose Funds reflect restricted funds raised to help sick, disabled and disadvantaged children and young people who have not yet been matched to specific projects in line with the restrictions placed on the use of funds by donors.

Kings College Hospital

Funds raised to contribute to the building of a new wing at the Variety Children's Hospital at Kings.

Designated funds

Designated funds of £100,000 have been set aside by the trustees to fund individual grants and/or wheelchairs as per requirement. These funds are part of unrestricted funds and designation is made by the trustees, not imposed by donors or external restrictions.

15 Taxation status

Variety is a registered charity and is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable income, provided this is spent on charitable purposes. The subsidiary undertaking's profits are donated to Variety under Gift Aid through a deed of covenant. Accordingly there is no provision for taxation on its profit for the year.

16 Members' liability

As Variety is limited by guarantee, there is no share capital. At 31 December 2024, there were 11 members (2023: 10), each of whom have undertaken to contribute to the assets in the event of Variety being wound up, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £1.

17 Grants and donations

2024	Individuals £	Individuals No.	Institutions £	Institutions No.	Total £	Total No.
Equipment Grants	151,516	71	10,249	2	161,765	73
Sunshine Coaches	-	-	3,646,214	87	3,646,214	87
Wheelchairs	196,693	44	-	-	196,693	44
Variety Great Days Out	134,960	9,093	-	-	134,960	9,093
	483,169	9,208	3,656,463	89	4,139,632	9,297

Analysis of grants £5,000 and over made to institutions: £

Rotherhithe Primary School, Southwark	72,556
Meadowfield School, Swale	64,056
Comberton Village College and Sixth Form, South Cambridgeshire	61,290
Vale School, Haringey	61,290
Walton Leigh School, Elmbridge	61,290
Ambitious about Autism, Haringey	58,790
Amwell View School & Specialist Sports College, East Hertfordshire	58,790
Applebee Wood Community Specialist School, South Ribble	58,790
Carrongrange High School, Falkirk	58,790
Five Acre Wood School, Maidstone	58,790
Five Acre Wood School, Maidstone	58,790
Greenwood Academy, North Ayrshire	58,790
Hazelwood School, Glasgow City	58,790
Lady Zia Wernher School, Luton	58,790
Newbridge School Parents and Friends Association, Elmbridge	58,790
North Ridge High School, Manchester	58,790
Oak Grove College, Worthing	58,790
Pantysgallog Primary School, Merthyr Tydfil	58,790
Sandelford Special School, Causeway Coast and Glens	58,790
Stubbin Wood School, Mansfield	58,790
The Glasgow Gaelic School, Glasgow City	58,790
The Ridgeway School, Waverley	58,790
The Wyvern School, Ashford	58,790
Tor View School, Rossendale	58,790
Watergate School, Lewisham	58,790
We are Beams, Sevenoaks	58,790
Woodlawn School, North Tyneside	58,790
Woodlawn Special School, North Tyneside	58,790
Kingsley High School, Harrow	57,116
The Village School, Brent	57,116
Bleasdale School, Lancaster	54,616
Kingsley High School, Harrow	54,616
Palatine Primary School, Worthing	54,616
Park Lane Special School, Cheshire East	54,616
Piper Hill Specialist Support School, Manchester	54,616
Redbridge High School, Liverpool	54,616
The Abbey School, Waverley	54,616
The Chiltern School, Central Bedfordshire	54,616
West SILC, Leeds	54,616

St Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School, Knowsley	54,177
Bowman Academy, Charnwood	52,477
Harehills Primary School, Leeds	52,477
Our Ladys R.C Primary School, Wigan	52,477
Queen's Croft High School, Lichfield	52,477
St Joseph's R.C. High School, Bolton	52,477
The Brook Special Primary School, Haringey	52,477
The Dockland Settlement – Parkview Outdoor Play, Tower Hamlets	52,477
Tredegarville Primary School, Cardiff	52,477
Westcroft School, Wolverhampton	52,477
Cornerstone School, Bexley	51,850
Muntham House School, Horsham	51,850
Oakwood School, Walsall	49,350
Cavendish High Academy, Halton	49,350
Fosse Way School, Bath and North East Somerset	49,350
Glendinning Academy, Teignbridge	49,350
Linwood School, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	49,350
Manor Green College, Crawley	49,350
Park Community Academy (form. Park School), Blackpool	49,350
Pioneer House High School, Manchester	49,350
The Pendlebury Centre, Stockport	49,350
Princes Primary School, Liverpool	49,350
Rainbow Federation Bryn Hafod & Glan yr Afon School, Cardiff	49,350
Rowan School, Sheffield	49,350
The Wymering School, Portsmouth	49,350
Oakfield Primary School, Cardiff	49,350
Colnbrook School, Three Rivers	32,077
DABD Disablement Association of Barking Dagenham, Barking and Dagenham	9,440
Manchester Children's Hospital	5,575
Donations under £5,000	9,873
	<hr/>
	3,656,463

2023	Individuals £	Individuals No.	Institutions £	Institutions No.	Total £	Total No.
Equipment Grants	191,655	93	13,929	3	205,584	96
Sunshine Coaches	-	-	2,668,751	49	2,668,751	49
Wheelchairs	357,769	54	-	-	357,769	54
Variety Great Days Out	209,508	7,956	-	-	209,508	7,956
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	758,932	8,103	2,682,680	52	3,441,612	8,155

Analysis of grants £5,000 and over made to institutions:	£
Castledon School, Wickford	58,790
Cherry Garden, London	58,790
Cleaswell Hill, Choppington	58,790
Five Acre School, Maidstone	58,790
Little Heath Specialist School, Romford	58,790
Marjorie McClure, Chislehurst	58,790
Montacute School, Poole	58,790
Osborne School, Winchester	58,790
Sunningdale School, Sunderland	58,790
Thomas Wolsey Ormiston Academy, Ipswich	58,790
Manor Green College, Crawley	58,790
Woodfield School, Merstham	58,790
Clare School, Norwich	58,790
Chapel Green School, Attleborough	58,790
St Roses Special School, Stroud	57,116
Taylor Made Dreams, East Sussex	57,116
Bower Green School, Maidstone	54,977
Brairwood School, Bristol	54,616

Delamere School, Manchester	54,616
Marlborough School, Sidcup	54,616
Northgate College, Northampton	54,616
Merstone School, Birmingham	54,616
Oaks Specialist College, Tonbridge	54,616
Rainbow Hospice, Loughborough	54,616
SPACE, Ware	54,616
The Chiltern School, Houghton Regis	54,616
Bracken Hill School, Kirkby in Ashfield	52,477
Clare Mount Specialist School, Wirral	52,477
Elm Tree Primary School, West Bromwich	52,477
Essex Primary School, London	52,477
Holy Trinity Youth Club, Belfast	52,477
Kirklees Adventure Trust, Huddersfield	52,477
Mellers School, Nottingham	52,477
Parkhill School, Glasgow	52,477
Stanhope Primary School, Tyne & Wear	52,477
Hendon School, London	52,477
St Joseph's Specialist School, Cranleigh	51,850
Alsop High, Liverpool	49,350
Highpark School, Glasgow	49,350
Jigsaw Trust, Cranleigh	49,350
Mudchute Farm, London	49,350
DABD, Dagenham	49,350
Hawkswood Group, London	49,350
Highfield Ely Academy, Ely	49,350
Lampard Community School, Barnstaple	49,350
Meadow High School, Uxbridge	49,350
Meadowfield School, Sittingbourne	49,350
The Walnut School, Milton Keynes	49,350
CASPA Midfield Primary School, Bromley	48,850
Richmond Park Academy, London	16,612
Chatsworth High School, Manchester	11,026
Donations under £5,000	2,909
	<hr/>
	2,682,680

19 Pensions

Variety contributes to a group defined contribution personal pension plan for certain employees with Standard Life.

20 Reconciliation of net income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income/ (expenditure) for the reporting period	176,379	(351,686)
Depreciation charges	49,003	45,981
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	(12,695)	(95,321)
Interest paid	62,249	68,154
(Increase) in debtors	(177,352)	(49,673)
(Decrease)/ increase in creditors	(771,912)	952,593
Net cash (used in)/ provided by operating activities	(674,328)	570,048

21 Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2024, the group had future lease payments of £nil (2023 - £11,112) payable under non-cancellable operating leases as set out below.

	2024 Office Equipment	2023 Office Equipment
	£	£
Payments due in:		
Less than 1 year	-	649
Between 1 and 2 years	-	-
	-	649

22 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

None of the Trustees received either remuneration or reimbursed expenditure during this financial year or the last financial year.

The total amount of donations received from the Trustees or their companies during the year was £107,600 (2023: £44,024) of which £nil was given towards Sunshine Coaches (2023: £10,000), £nil was restricted to individual grants and wheelchairs (2023: £21,547) and £11,000 was paid towards the costs of the Chairman's reception 2024. The remainder £96,600 was unrestricted (2023: £12,477). Trustees also supported the Charity's fundraising events. The total amount received from Trustees or their companies during the year from tickets and other purchases in support of the Charity's fundraising events was £22,445 (2023: £31,250).

During the year, as permitted and subject to strict protocols, the Group entered into the following arrangements in which the following Trustees had an interest:

Solicitor fees £nil (2023: £4,800) payable to Statham Gill Davies, a company of which Ms Talya Shalson (appointed as a director 27 February 2023) is a partner.

Variety International

Variety has a licensing arrangement with Variety International, a US based organisation that holds certain Variety trademarks, service marks, and registrations. Under this arrangement, Variety pays a licence fee of 1% based on turnover, net of support costs. In 2024, the charity also received financial support from Variety International amounting to £37,706, specifically towards the Variety Disability Sports Award. One of Variety's trustees, Tushar Prabhu, is a board member of Variety International.

The Kartik Prabhu Memorial Foundation, a foundation of which Mr Tushar Prabhu is a trustee made the following donations during 2024:

- Share of Access Interns costs: £7,000 (2023: £5,000) which is part of an agreement between Variety and The Kartik Foundation on the management and development of the Access Interns programme.
- Chairman's reception: £5,000
- Variety Events Props Award 2024: £550
- Variety Events Sports Awards 2024: £7,500

Licence arrangement with The Kartik Prabhu Memorial Foundation

Variety, the Children's Charity has entered into a lease agreement with The Kartik Prabhu Memorial Foundation on 1st October 2024, an organisation where one of Variety's trustees is also a trustee and founder.

Under the terms of the agreement, Variety leases property to The Kartik Prabhu Memorial Foundation at a peppercorn rent of £1 per annum.

The arrangement is considered a related party transaction and was carried out on terms that the trustees consider to be in the best interests of the charity. The trustee involved did not take part in any decision-making relating to this transaction.

As at 31st December 2024 the refundable licence fee deposit of £500 and peppercorn rent of £1.20 (incl. VAT) were still owed to Variety.


Transactions and balances between the Charity and its trading subsidiary, Variety Events Limited, are set out in the notes to the accounts (see notes 2 and 10).


23 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

 VarietyGreatBritain

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 /VarietyGB



www.variety.org.uk 020 7428 8100

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Head Office: Variety, The Children's Charity,
Variety House, 93 Bayham Street, London NW1 0AG

Royal Patron: His Majesty, King Charles III

VARIETY THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 209259

Accounts



Annual report and accounts 2023



Annual Report and Accounts 2023

Year ended 31 December 2023

Chair of Trustees' Report

As we start our 75th anniversary celebrations, I am delighted to present the 2023 annual report and accounts for Variety, the Children's Charity.

For 75 years, we have empowered disabled and disadvantaged children throughout Great Britain to reach their full potential and live their best lives. Thanks to the unwavering support of our incredible sponsors and donors, we are looking forward to a bright and promising future.

Variety, the Children's Charity is deeply honoured that His Majesty King Charles III has become Patron of our great Charity. That this is announced as Variety, the Children's Charity celebrates its 75th anniversary makes this wonderful moment even more special. It was the King's late Father, the previous Duke of Edinburgh, who was pivotal in establishing Variety Club in 1949, later renamed Variety, the Children's Charity.

As we reflect on this Patronage being granted, we are indebted to everyone associated with Variety, the Children's Charity over the years, past and present. This recognition by His Majesty The King is very much testament to everyone who has given support whether time, love or financial. To you all we say, 'Thank You'.

2023 saw the return of some incredible fundraising events, as well as the introduction of the groundbreaking Variety Club Disability Sports Awards. We are immensely proud to lead the way in accessibility and inclusion with the UK's only annual national sports awards exclusively for disability sports. I am delighted that the event, which was held in Leeds, was a huge success and Variety can help pave the way for athletes with disabilities. We also geographically expanded the reach of our PROPS events by holding a Midlands event in Birmingham and a North West event in Manchester, in addition to our well established London based PROPS Event which took place for the 31st time this year.

We are immensely grateful to each and every one of our supporters. All donations, no matter how big or small, make a difference to the lives of the children we help. I would like to take the opportunity to express deepest thanks to our Variety family, whose ongoing commitment to our cause has changed countless young lives. I would also like to specifically thank Variety Golf, who contributed over £1.3m to our Sunshine Coach programme this year as well as Michael Josephson MBE who donated over £400,000 to us from his legendary Michael Josephson Ball proceeds.

During the year, we focused on four primary areas of support:

Providing Sunshine Coaches: in 2023, our charity sponsored 49 fully accessible minibuses for schools and non-profit organisations at a cost of £2,668,751.

Providing wheelchairs: Variety spent £357,769 providing specialist wheelchairs in 2023 to 54 children and young people, allowing greater independence and involvement in education sports, and social activities.

Annual Report and Accounts 2023

Providing specialist equipment grants: in 2023, we almost doubled our spending on specialist equipment grants. We granted £205,584 on 96 grants for equipment relating to care, mobility, and wellbeing.

Providing Great Days Out: in 2023, Variety took 7,956 children on Great Days Out at a cost of £209,508, helping them to develop important childhood memories and bond with their friends and families.

In 2023, we also continued to develop our relationship with the Variety Children's Hospital, our flagship healthcare project situated at King's College Hospital. Each year, more than 70,000 children and their families are helped by the world class medical care the centre provides. As we celebrate our 75th anniversary, we are looking forward to a bright and collaborative future that expands the Variety Children's Hospital.

As we look forward to 2024, I would like to welcome Michael Josephson MBE as the charity's honorary Chief Barker. Michael is a long term supporter of our work and his incredible generosity and commitment to helping children realise their full potential has led to truly astounding fundraising efforts. As a dedicated supporter of our work and our Chair of Patrons, in his role as Chief Barker, Michael will help us further increase our impact.

We are immensely proud of the impact our work has had in 2023 and we are dedicated to building on this success to help even more disabled and disadvantaged children and young people in 2024. We could not do this work without the generosity of our donors, volunteers, and partner organisations. We are grateful for their continued support and we look forward to another year of great success together.



Professor Jonathan Shalit OBE

Chair of Trustees

Annual Report and Accounts 2023

TRUSTEES

Variety, the Children's Charity

- Professor Jonathan Shalit OBE
- Tushar Prabhu
- Tesula Mohindra
- Dilly Kitchlew-Willamson
- Guy Remond
- Ben Whittle
- Stanley Salter (retired 1 March 2023)
- Candice Sammeroff (appointed 27 February 2023)
- Talya Shalson (appointed 27 February 2023)
- Tania Bryer (appointed 22 May 2023)
- Andrew Geddes (appointed 3 May 2024)
- Helen Davies KC (appointed 3 May 2024)

Chief Executive

Conrad Hollingsworth (resigned 31st December 2023)

Lisa Bond (Interim CEO, appointed December 2023)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Secretary:

Talya Shalson

Registered office:

Variety House
93 Bayham Street
London NW1 0AG

Charity number:

209259 (England and Wales)
SC038505 (Scotland)

Company number:

509811 (England and Wales)

Auditors:

Saffery LLP
71 Queen Victoria Street
London
EC4V 4BE

Bankers:

NatWest
2nd Floor, Argyll House
246 Regent Street
London
W1B 3PB

Annual Report and Accounts 2023

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustees submit their Annual Report and Financial Statements of Variety, the Children's Charity, a company limited by guarantee, for the year ended 31 December 2023. The Trustees' Annual Report includes the Directors' Report for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006.

Structure, governance and management

As at 31 December 2023, the charity had 9 Trustees. The trustees, who are re-elected every three years. They convene at least four times each year. There is a supporting committee covering Audit, Finance and Risk which also convenes at least four times each year.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

New trustee appointments are made by the existing board of trustees. They are selected on the basis of the skills, experience and overall contribution they are able to bring to the charity.

Candidates are sourced through a variety of channels, including direct approach, referral and headhunters. Once recruited, new Trustees have an induction and are provided with ongoing support and training to meet their responsibilities.

All new trustees are given guidance material published by the Charity Commission on the responsibilities of being a trustee and a copy of the latest edition of the Charity Governance Code, supported and endorsed by the Commission.

Trustees' induction and ongoing involvement includes, inter alia, participation in the Charity's events and activities, meetings with staff, volunteers, donors, beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

On appointment, Trustees sign a register of interests, which is renewed annually.

The Trustees are responsible for governance, strategy, risk management, setting headline objectives and monitoring performance against these objectives. To this end, Trustees receive regular updates, including full reports on activities, targets, impact and financial information, including management accounts on a quarterly basis.

Business plans and strategic plans are discussed, agreed, amended and revised by the Trustees at Board meetings.

To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority, within the terms of delegation approved by the Trustees, for the operational matters of the charity.

The key management personnel of Variety comprises the Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Management Team. There were some changes in the team in the year. During the year the charity was also required to use additional interim support in these roles. As a result of this, the charity's key management personnel was a larger group this year. The total combined employee benefits of the key management personnel of Variety was £456,065 (2022: £241,498). Excluding one-off items arising from the management changes and the interim support the cost of the key management personnel was £296,915 in 2023.

The Chief Executive reports on performance against the strategic and operational plans approved by the Board and meets with the Chair on a regular basis.

The Chief Executive has responsibility for recruitment and management of the Senior Management Team to ensure that programmes and values are delivered and upheld against plans and priorities agreed by the Board. The Senior Management Team has experience in charity communications and marketing, charity programmes, fundraising, finance, HR and operations and meets on a regular basis with the Chief Executive to discuss operations and strategy.

Annual Report and Accounts 2023

The Trustees during the year were:

Professor Jonathan Shalit OBE, Tushar Prabhu, Ben Whittle, Candice Sammeroff, Dilly Kitchlew Williamson, Guy Remond, Tesula Mohindra, Tania Bryer, Talya Shalson, Stanley Salter.

History

Variety was formed in 1928 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. On Christmas eve the year before, a baby named Catherine was found abandoned in the Sheridan Theatre by members of the "Variety Club", an informal group of leading businessmen across all aspects of the entertainment industry - from 'icecapades' to films, theatre and showbusiness. The Variety Club decided to adopt her, named her 'Catherine Variety Sheridan' and launched a children's charity in her honour. Its first Dinner was staged in a ballroom decorated like a Big Top circus tent, from which followed the terminology of "Tents" and "Barkers". The charity was brought to the UK in 1949 by HRH, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and Frank Sinatra and inaugurated at a dinner at the Savoy Hotel in London.

It is a great honour that His Majesty King Charles III has accepted the Patronage of Variety, the Children's Charity during our 75th year in Great Britain.

Employees and volunteers

At the end of December 2023, Variety employed 20 people (both full-time and part-time) in its offices across England and Scotland. The charity depends on the commitment and hard work of these staff, who are highly valued.

Variety also relies heavily on volunteer involvement. Volunteers assist us in a diverse range of roles and activities, at many levels, and throughout the UK. For example, volunteers serve on committees across England and Scotland, for the following aspects of the charity's activities:

- Events
- Fundraising
- Programmes
- Special projects

The Trustees are enormously indebted to these volunteers for their continued support.

Management remuneration policy

The Chief Executive is appointed by the Trustees. All other key management personnel are appointed by the Chief Executive. Appointments and ongoing remunerations at this level take into account the following factors:

- The charity's ability to pay the wages of senior staff.
- The types of skills, experiences and competencies the charity needs from its senior staff and the scope of the role being recruited.
- The charity's objectives and the number and nature of senior staff needed to fulfil these.
- The impact of market rates on appointments.

Equal opportunities

Variety is committed to the principle and practice of equal opportunities and aims to be an equal opportunities employer. Variety's employment policy aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, disability, national origin, race, religion and sex or any other grounds which are unjustifiable in terms of equality of opportunity for all.

Annual Report and Accounts 2023

Objectives and activities

The legal objects of the charity, as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the governing document of Variety, are as follows:

- To promote and provide for the care and upbringing of disabled and disadvantaged children up to the age of nineteen within the United Kingdom.
- The advancement of education and the relief of financial need of children within the United Kingdom.
- To undertake, and to assist others to undertake, research into any illness or affliction affecting children which will advance knowledge and to publish the useful results of such research.
- The provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation for children in the interests of their social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for such children.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the trustees have given due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Meeting our objectives through Variety's work

When statutory funding cannot adequately meet a child's needs, Variety steps in. Providing high quality, practical, bespoke equipment solutions, and educational experiences through memorable activities, remains Variety's fundamental objective.

We support children in four ways:

- **Mobility** - our equipment grants fund customised wheelchairs and Sunshine Coaches for schools - helping children travel safely, learn on the move and embrace a sense of freedom and discovery.
- **Education** - our equipment and tech grants to young people's organisations encourage learning, develop skills and boost confidence and mental health. Our new Access Interns initiative helps develop employment pathways for these young people.
- **Experiences** - we love creating memories through Variety Great Days Out - experiences that broaden horizons, offer positive role models, encourage social mobility - and are great fun.

- **Health** - we are working on a new collaborative initiative with King's College Hospital to refurbish our own Variety Children's Hospital with the latest medical technology and life-changing aids.

Grant-giving activities

Our grant-giving this year has included the provision of Sunshine Coaches to schools and other institutions catering for children with special educational needs and the provision of grants to individuals for wheelchairs and specialist equipment. We are not currently providing wheelchair and specialist equipment grants to institutions.

Our grant-giving programmes improve children and young people's mental and physical wellbeing, reduce loneliness and social isolation, enable independence and mobility, increase participation in sport, contribute to sustained improvements in health and physical development and more.

Experiences

In addition to our grant-giving programmes, Variety also provides memorable and valuable childhood experiences through our Variety Great Days Out programme. The programme aims to improve wellbeing in children and young people by reducing social isolation and increasing participation in previously inaccessible experiences. We do this by removing barriers to opportunities, by building social skills and increasing confidence. In short, these trips out are of the kind that most children take for granted but which our beneficiaries may not otherwise have the chance to enjoy or participate in.

The impact of our programmes

In 2023, we spent over £3.4m (2022: £2.7m) on the provision of 8,155 grants, wheelchairs, sunshine coaches, gifts and days out to disabled and disadvantaged children to help them to receive better care, to improve their mobility, independence and wellbeing, to facilitate their access to education and to better cope with the pressures of the ongoing pandemic.

Annual Report and Accounts 2023

Equipment grants

In 2023 Variety provided 96 grants for types of equipment relating to care, mobility, and wellbeing at an average of £2,141 each, totalling £205,584.

These grants comprised:

- 21 items of sensory equipment
- 14 specialist beds or cots
- 9 specialist car seats
- 6 pieces of outdoor play equipment
- 5 seating systems
- 5 pieces of bathroom equipment
- 4 walkers and standing frames
- 3 hoists and harnesses
- 2 scoliosis suits
- 2 pieces of specialist furniture
- 2 sensory rooms
- 1 piece of sports and training equipment
- 1 piece of IT equipment
- 21 other items (including epilepsy alarms and sensors and prescription swimming goggles)

Aurora's story

Aurora is a lively and sociable four-year-old girl who enjoys big sensory activities. Since receiving a new safety sleeper bed funded by Variety, the Children's Charity, Aurora and her family have enjoyed more peaceful nights.

Due to two severe perinatal strokes during pregnancy, Aurora has Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy, meaning that each of her limbs are weakened. She is just learning to sit on her own, but she is unable to stand or walk, and she is nonverbal. That doesn't stop Aurora from making herself known!

Aurora's family came to Variety for help funding a safety sleeper bed.

Aurora's mum, Cressida, said, "In her baby cot, Aurora was getting her limbs stuck and hitting her head. I was trying to put bumpers and things round but that was moveable and difficult. That was a huge appeal of the bed because it has special padding, so it's a kind of safe space to be able to put her. And we can use it for changing her as well because it's got hospital settings so it can go really high so I'm not having to bend down in a really difficult way with a slipped disc in my back.

"I also felt really proud of myself for having got it. Just having something that I managed to sort with your help was just a really nice, positive, proud feeling that's quite hard to come by."

Jake's Story

10-year-old Jake has been playing with his brother, Alex (7), for the first time since receiving a new interactive projector funded by Variety, the Children's Charity.

Jake was diagnosed with Autism when he was four-years-old. He struggles to leave the house and with people coming into his house. As he often cannot communicate his needs and feelings, he will have a meltdown when his parents try to get him to leave the house, when other people come into his house, when Nichola leaves the house, or when he is out of routine.

Nichola said, "I'd say it really affects Alex because he can't play the things he wants to play. He got really upset a couple of weeks ago because Jake can't play boardgames. So I was playing a boardgame with Alex when he said 'Will my brother ever be able to play with me?' And I can't answer that question."

However, the family's home life has recently changed when Variety funded an interactive projector. The projector system responds to movement to provide sensory stimulation through interactive games, quizzes, and virtual painting.

Nichola said, "I'm just in shock that it is actually here and we've got it because never in a million years did I think he'd get it. I'm very, very grateful to Variety for everything that they've done for our family because it's just going to be a massive change for our lives."

After just a few weeks, the family has seen a massive change in their lives. Nichola told ITV Meridian, "He's not isolating upstairs, We're a family, we can now go out the house and when we come back home, if Jake has a bit of sensory overload we have something to help regulate him.

"The meltdowns are less. The speech is coming on. Alex and Jake can now actually be brothers and play together, which is so emotional."

Annual Report and Accounts 2023

Wheelchair grants

In 2023 Variety provided 54 wheelchair grants at an average of £6,625 each, totalling £357,769.

The right wheelchair can offer independence to a child or young person, giving them the freedom to explore their environment in their own way, get around at school, keep up with their friends and take part in social activities, sports and hobbies.

We know that a wheelchair has to be appropriate for each child's needs and environment, however, and this is why we part and fully fund a range of different manual, powered and sports wheelchairs according to the individual's age, medical condition and lifestyle.

In 2023 Variety provided:

- 29 manual wheelchairs
- 11 powered wheelchairs
- 7 sports wheelchairs
- 6 all terrain wheelchairs
- 1 standing wheelchair

Harry's story

10-year-old Harry is an active young boy with many hobbies, including attending the school robotics club, fencing, and sailing. Last year, he came second in sailing in the summer regatta. Harry has a rare muscle condition called Titinopathy, which causes muscle weakness and loss of strength. Since receiving an all terrain powered wheelchair from Variety, he has been loving life, exploring his local area and going on a school residential with his friends.

Titinopathy is a little-known condition that medical professionals are still learning about today. It often causes pain or tenderness, burning sensations in the muscles, difficulty moving joints, feeling crackling or grating when moving the joint, muscle weakness and loss of strength. It affects Harry's muscles throughout his body, meaning he cannot walk or stand.

Harry is a full-time powerchair user. He has nearly outgrown his old wheelchair and was in need of a chair that would enable him to go off-road and on the sand at the beach where the family lives.

Harry's mum, Suzie, said, "We came across Variety when we were in the process of getting a new powerchair for Harry. We wanted something that would last him into adulthood and also access as many terrains

as possible. We live near the sea, and going to the beach and on walks is a big part of our lives, and we wanted Harry to be able to do this with us. The combination of sand or stones and powerchairs is usually a big problem, but we had found an all-terrain chair called the Trekinetic which is perfect for Harry and his needs. As with everything in the world of additional needs, the price tag was huge! So we began looking around for support and that's when I came across Variety and their grant service.

"We were incredibly lucky to be granted half the cost of the new Trekinetic powerchair for Harry by Variety. Without this, we would possibly still be fundraising and saving money for the new chair, or I would have had to run another marathon!! Either way, we were able to purchase Harry the chair much quicker, and he is now a happy user of the chair. The chair is also much faster than his old (child) one, which means he is able to keep up with friends and peers, which is better for him socially too."

With his new powerchair, Harry is able to go on the beach and on boats, and can continue normal life with his family. Weighing just over a third of a standard powerchair, Harry's Trekinetic can easily go in and out of non-adapted cars and onto boats, which is a big part of their family life.

When reflecting on Harry's condition and how he is perceived by people in society, Suzie said, "Every muscle condition is different in the way it affects people. What one person can or can't do will be different to the next. It is also difficult to explain to people what Harry's condition is, as medical professionals are still learning about it today as it is rare. Also when people see Harry in a wheelchair, they often assume he simply cannot walk or his legs don't work. They forget that a muscle condition can affect everywhere in the body; for example his arms are also affected but often people think he will have completely normal use of his arms, as they are only seeing the wheelchair. But this is not the case. You can't 'pigeon-hole' anyone with a neuromuscular condition!"

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Variety Great Days Out

In 2023 Variety took 7,956 children on Great Days Out, at a cost of £209,508.

4,452 children, along with their parents and carers, enjoyed the annual Variety Great Day Out at West Midland Safari Park.

The Great Day Out was organised by Variety Midlands member, Lillian Bishop. Variety, the Children's Charity provided the tickets, donated by West Midland Safari Park, to disabled and disadvantaged children to visit the park with their families and carers on a Variety Great Day Out. Over two weekends, families made the most of the opportunity to spend some quality time together.

One father, Neil, said, "My son, Harrison, and I wanted to extend our deepest gratitude for the incredible experience you provided us with - the visit to West Midland Safari Park. It was an adventure of a lifetime, and we cannot thank Variety enough for making it possible.

"Our day at the safari park was nothing short of magical. From the moment we entered the park to the awe-inspiring encounters with magnificent animals, every moment was filled with wonder and joy. The smiles on our faces throughout the day were a testament to the happiness that Variety brought into our lives.

"Variety's generosity not only allowed us to enjoy a day of adventure but also created lasting memories that we will treasure forever. It's heart warming to know that there are organizations like Variety dedicated to bringing joy to children's lives."

One parent said, "We had an amazing time watching the kids enjoy themselves, away from the hospital and appointments and being with their friends. The parents enjoyed it just as much - we all had lots of laughs and made some lovely memories. Thank you."

Variety Sunshine Coaches

In 2023 Variety supplied 49 Sunshine Coaches at a cost of £2,668,751.

Variety's famous Sunshine Coaches are specially adapted, accessible minibuses that cater for SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) schools and other non-profit organisations working with disabled and disadvantaged children and young people.

Our coaches give youngsters the opportunity to explore places they would otherwise never visit, experience different learning environments and gain life skills outside the classroom - all while supporting their physical, social and language development.

Having their own coach enables schools and organisations to plan recreational or educational trips with less hassle and more confidence, knowing pupils will be travelling in safety and comfort.

Briarwood Special School's story

Briarwood Special School caters to children and young people aged 3-19 with Severe and Profound Learning Difficulties, Complex Needs, Autism and Sensory Impairment.

With five separate buildings across three locations in Bristol, Briarwood needed a Sunshine Coach to help transport students between their sites to give them access to the different facilities.

Nicolle Deighton, Executive Headteacher at Briarwood Special School, said, "Access to a minibus enables us to make a wide range of off-site links with organisations, employers, and work placements in support of our careers, employability and preparing for adulthood curriculum. The use of a Sunshine Coach ensures we can carefully plan fun trips for our pupils that reward and celebrate their achievements, also broadening their life experiences. This includes visits to the library, shops, parks, sport centres, zoos, animal therapy sessions, museums, open spaces and much more, creating meaningful links between curriculum/life skills learning and the application of this to everyday life outside of our school context."

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Fundraising Activities

Variety typically does not receive government or statutory funding/contracts and is therefore greatly dependent on voluntary funds from our varied supporters. We adopt an ethical and transparent approach to our fundraising, and we are a proud member of the Fundraising Regulatory Scheme and the Institute of Fundraising and adhere to all their relevant standards. We did not use the services of professional fundraisers in 2023, nor did we carry out any 'door to door' fundraising in the year.

During the 2023 financial year we did not receive any complaints regarding our fundraising activities, but in the event of receiving any complaints of this nature, we follow a strict complaints procedure.

Notable donations and funding

Variety raises funds through a range of activities but principally through corporate and individual donations, fundraising events, wills and legacies, trusts, foundations and community fundraising including challenge events. To name a few of our most significant donations this year:

- Variety Golf contributed over £1.3m to the Sunshine Coach programme.
- The Michael Josephson MBE Charity Ball is an annual fundraising event held in the North West to raise money for local children's charities. The 2023 ball raised a record-breaking over £400,000 for Variety.
- The Bingo Association donated over £183,000.
- St James Place Charitable Foundation donated nearly £90,000.
- Corporate supporters Pavestone returned with their Pavestone Rally, which saw teams travel four days in budget cars from Ghent to Monte Carlo and completing challenges along the way. The 2023 Rally raised over £50,000 for Variety.
- Corporate Supporters DPD donated over £45,000.
- The ACI Annual Golf Day raises funds every year for Variety. 2023's Golf Day raised £36,000.
- The Bluston Charitable Foundation donated £35,000.
- 10 runners completed the 2023 London Marathon on behalf of Variety, raising over £28,000 between them.

Variety's fundraising events are carried out through the charity's wholly owned subsidiary company, Variety Events Limited. The company's net profit is donated to Variety, the Children's Charity. The fundraising events which raised over £50,000 were:

- The PROPS Awards is the UK's longest standing property awards lunch and is hugely popular in the property industry. The 2023 PROPS Awards raised over £410,000.
- The inaugural North West PROPS took place in December 2023, celebrating outstanding achievement in the property industry in the North West Region. The event raised nearly £200,000.
- The Legends of Industry Awards celebrate outstanding achievement in recipients' chosen fields of business and industry. The 2023 Awards raised over £75,000 for Variety.

Financial review

The financial statements cover the activities of Variety, the Children's Charity, and its trading subsidiary, Variety Events Limited, for the year ended 31 December 2023. The results are set out on page 18.

A summary of the results of the subsidiary is set out in note 2 to the financial statements.

Incoming resources increased by 3% to £5,546,756 over the previous year (2022: £5,377,560). Of this, £965,535 was generated through the trading subsidiary (2022: £1,166,175). Donations received totalled £4,256,337 (2022: £3,798,362) and legacy income was £89,162 (2022: £100,908). Donated goods and services income was £140,401 (2022: £193,590), which relates to Variety Great Days Out gift-in-kind value placed on donated outings and small gifts given for children under this programme.

During the year expenditure on charitable activities, including overheads was £3,972,362 (2022: £3,013,659) of which £2,865,039 was applied for the purchase of Sunshine Coaches, £478,651 for electric wheelchairs and £335,073 for grants to individuals (principally for the purchase of specialist care or sensory play adaptive equipment), and other organisations to help children who are disabled or living with financial disadvantage. £293,599 was applied to Variety Great Days Out activities.

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Financial position and reserves policy

Variety's charitable giving commitments are conditional upon the raising of specific funds.

The loss in the year of £351,686 (2022: surplus £473,861) before loss/gain on investments comprised a loss on unrestricted funds of £592,057 (2022: surplus £154,729) and surplus on restricted funds of £240,371 (2022: surplus £319,132). Like all charitable organisations, Variety must retain unrestricted reserves to allow the charity to meet its ongoing commitments and bridge any unforeseen gaps between the spending and receiving of income. The Trustees had set a target for unrestricted free reserves of between four and six months' forecast operating and administration costs by the end of 2023.

At the end of the year, unrestricted funds were £2,630,560, of which fixed assets, net of the mortgage secured on our head office, represented £1,940,893. Thus, unrestricted free reserves at 31 December 2023 amounted to £689,667 which is approximately 4 months forecast operating and administrative costs. The trustees consider this level of unrestricted free reserves to be reasonable.

Restricted reserves increased from £961,391 at 2022 year-end to £1,201,762 at 2023 year-end as a result of significant fundraising activities taking place in the final quarter of the year.

The total funds of the charity as of 31 December 2023 were £3,832,322 including cash of £2,620,273, which has increased by £481,089 over the year.

Investment policy

The charity's primary investment objective is to maintain the value of its investments. Since 1998 the charity has owned the freehold interest in a commercial office building from which its head office operates and of which 35.51 per cent is sublet. The estimated value of the sublet property as at 31 December 2023, is £1,605,000. All income arising from it is unrestricted income. In addition, certain office car parking spaces that form part of the curtilage of the freehold office building are rented out on a short-term basis.

The charity's commercial activities are undertaken by its wholly owned subsidiary, Variety Events Limited with all profits donated under Gift Aid to the charity.

Principal risks and uncertainties

There are a number of risks and uncertainties that can impact on the performance of the charity, some of which are beyond the control of Trustees. The Audit, Finance and Risk Committee meets and assesses the major risks to which Variety is exposed.

As a result of the challenging geopolitical climate, higher interest and inflation rates, the economic environment continues to remain very uncertain.

Key risks identified were as follows:

- The level of income could fall significantly, whether from donations or trading subsidiary activities as a result of increased economic pressures
- The level of unrestricted income could fall making it difficult for the Charity to meet its ongoing expenditure.
- Successful recruitment and retention of key staff given the extraordinarily difficult recruiting environment which followed from Brexit and the pandemic.

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Variety mitigates these risks in a number of ways:

- Continued focus on its fundraising activities, keeping in close contact with its donors and sponsors and working on a range of events.
- In the event of a considerable drop in income whether from donations or trading subsidiary activities, the total of grants committed would be reduced (after taking into account the ability of unrestricted reserves to cover short-term shortfalls). Since grants are paid once the money becomes available, there is limited risk of financial exposure to the charity.
- Operating effective and extensive financial management which includes: an annual planning and budgeting system with an annual budget approved by the Trustees; reforecasting, at a minimum, quarterly and all significant budget variations being subject to Trustee approval.
- Holding a prudent level of unrestricted free reserves
- Ongoing investment in our people and culture.

Going concern

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected cashflows and income and expenditure for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least a year from the date the accounts are signed. The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will be able to continue in business and meet its liabilities as they fall due. The accounts have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

Plans for the future

We look to the future with confidence and optimism having taken the necessary steps to address the financial and operational challenges we faced because of the pandemic and what followed in terms of economic uncertainty.

In 2024 our aim continues to be on delivering sustainable growth, allowing us to continue to deliver support for children and young people. Our plans include the following areas:

Events

Following on from the success of our 2022/23 events we are continuing to work on our regular range of events. We hold a number of events across the country. Our largest planned events for 2024 are the Variety Club Showbusiness Awards, our 32nd London based Props Awards, Legends of Industry as well as the Variety Club Disability Sports Awards. The Disability Sports Awards event was relaunched in 2023, prior to that it was last held in 2009 and, in keeping with changing times and the purpose of Variety, these Awards are now entirely focused on disability sports, thereby creating the only annual national event in the UK that celebrates the achievements of disabled sportspeople exclusively. We will also be continuing with our Midlands and North West PROPS events which were successfully launched in 2022 and 2023.

Corporate partners

We will be extending our corporate partnership programmes, both in terms of number of partners as well as the services offered. Our aim is to focus on corporate partnerships, in which all the benefits of supporting Variety are tied together in a single offering.

Trusts and Foundations

We continue to engage with previous and new potential Trust and Foundation donors, highlighting the impact of our work on our beneficiaries' lives. We are confident that we can secure significant funding to support our ongoing work.

Access Interns

We are participating in a new initiative, in collaboration with the Kartik Foundation, called Access Interns - a programme that supports disabled and disadvantaged young people to secure corporate internships and work experience, in order to give them a sense of empowerment and improve their employment pathways and prospects. We are using our network of corporate partners and links with schools to help this programme flourish.

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Digital Strategy

We plan to use digital media, in conjunction with our new CRM system, to engage current and prospective donors more efficiently and effectively. Over the years, Variety has helped to improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and their families and our digital marketing will also be targeted to build our beneficiary and volunteer networks as well as our brand awareness.

Auditors

Saffery LLP have expressed their willingness to remain in office as auditors of the company.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Variety, the Children's Charity, for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law 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 charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group 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 (FRS 102);
- 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 charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.


In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, relating to small companies.

This report of the Trustees was approved by the Board of Trustees and signed as authorised on its behalf on 15th July 2024 by:



.....

Tushar Prabh
Trustee

Date 15th July 2024

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Independent auditor's report to the Trustees and members

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Variety, the Children's Charity (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the group and the parent charitable company as at 31 December 2023 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the

ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to

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determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 13, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the group and parent financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are

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considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities:

We assessed the susceptibility of the group and parent charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company by discussions with trustees, and updating our understanding of the sector in which the group and parent charitable company operate.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company include the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

Audit response to risks identified:

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items including a review of financial statement disclosures. We

reviewed the parent charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the parent charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

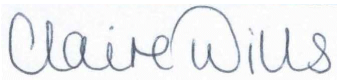
There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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Use of our report

This report is made solely to the parent charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the parent charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the parent charitable company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the parent charitable company, the parent charitable company's members and trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



.....
 Claire Wills (Senior Statutory Auditor)
 for and on behalf of Saffery LLP

Chartered Accountants
 Statutory Auditors

71 Queen Victoria Street
 London
 EC4V 4BE

19 July 2024
 Date:

Saffery LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Variety, the Children's Charity

Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and expenditure						
Income from:						
Donations and legacies						
	549,367	3,706,970	4,256,337	1,021,599	2,776,763	3,798,362
	89,162	-	89,162	86,408	14,500	100,908
3	-	140,401	140,401	-	193,590	193,590
Other trading activities						
2	965,535	-	965,535	1,166,175	-	1,166,175
Investments						
	92,329	-	92,329	118,464	-	118,464
	2,992	-	2,992	61	-	61
Total	1,699,385	3,847,371	5,546,756	2,392,707	2,984,853	5,377,560
5 Expenditure on:						
5	1,877,135	48,945	1,926,080	1,890,040	-	1,890,040
	1,877,135	48,945	1,926,080	1,890,040	-	1,890,040
5 Charitable activities						
	40,693	2,824,346	2,865,039	76,947	2,075,807	2,152,754
	72,367	406,284	478,651	108,523	225,091	333,614
	193,903	141,170	335,073	142,666	148,625	291,291
	107,344	186,255	293,599	19,802	216,198	236,000
	414,307	3,558,055	3,972,362	347,938	2,665,721	3,013,659
Total	2,291,442	3,607,000	5,898,442	2,237,978	2,665,721	4,903,699
Net (expenditure)/ income before (loss)/gain on investments	(592,057)	240,371	(351,686)	154,729	319,132	473,861
9 Net (loss)/ gain on investments		-		(80,000)	-	(80,000)
Net (expenditure)/ income and net movement in funds	(592,057)	240,371	(351,686)	74,729	319,132	393,861
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	3,222,617	961,391	4,184,008	3,147,888	642,259	3,790,147
14 Total funds carried forward	2,630,560	1,201,762	3,832,322	3,222,617	961,391	4,184,008

All amounts relate to continuing activities.

All recognised gains and losses are included in the consolidated statement of financial activities.

The notes on pages 22 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

Notes	2023	2022
	£	£
Fixed assets		
8 Tangible assets	1,633,496	1,664,432
9 Investments	1,605,000	1,605,000
	<u>3,238,496</u>	<u>3,269,432</u>
Current assets		
10 Debtors	568,111	518,438
Cash at bank and in hand	2,620,273	2,139,184
	<u>3,188,384</u>	<u>2,657,622</u>
11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	1,400,909	445,443
Net current assets	<u>1,787,475</u>	<u>2,212,179</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	5,025,971	5,481,611
12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	1,193,649	1,297,603
Total net assets	<u>3,832,322</u>	<u>4,184,008</u>
The funds of the group:		
13 Restricted funds	1,201,762	961,391
13 Unrestricted funds	2,630,560	3,222,617
Total group funds	<u>3,832,322</u>	<u>4,184,008</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The parent charity has taken advantage of the legal dispensation not to present its own income and expenditure account as permitted under Section 408(3) of the Companies Act 2006. The charity's net expenditure for the year was £351,686 (2022: net income of £393,861)

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed as authorised on its behalf on 15th July 2024 by:

Trustees



Tushar Prabhu



Prof. Jonathan Shalit OBE

The notes on pages 22 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

Notes	2023	2022
	£	£
Fixed assets		
8 Tangible assets	1,633,496	1,664,432
9 Investments	<u>1,605,100</u>	<u>1,605,100</u>
	3,238,596	3,269,532
Current assets		
10 Debtors	1,126,931	1,515,084
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>1,873,626</u>	<u>1,090,385</u>
	3,000,557	2,605,469
11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>1,213,182</u>	<u>393,390</u>
Net current assets	1,787,375	2,212,079
Total assets less current liabilities	5,025,971	5,481,611
12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	1,193,649	1,297,603
Total net assets	3,832,322	4,184,008
The funds of the charity:		
13 Restricted funds	1,201,762	961,391
13 Unrestricted funds	2,630,560	3,222,617
Total charity funds	3,832,322	4,184,008

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed as authorised on its behalf on 15th July 2024 by:

Trustees



Tushar Prabhu



Prof. Jonathan Shalit OBE

The notes on pages 22 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

Notes	2023	2022
	£	£
20 Net cash provided by operating activities	570,048	212,977
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	95,321	118,525
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(15,045)	(51,455)
Net cash provided by investing activities	80,276	67,070
Cash flow from financing activities:		
Repayments of borrowing	(101,081)	(98,361)
Interest paid	(68,154)	(67,075)
Cash inflows from new borrowings	-	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(169,235)	(165,436)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	481,089	114,611
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	2,139,184	2,024,573
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	2,620,273	2,139,184

Analysis of changes in net debt

2023

	At start of year	Cash-flows	Transfers	At end of year
	£	£	£	£
Cash	2,139,184	481,089	-	2,620,273
Loans falling due within one year	(101,081)	101,081	(103,954)	(103,954)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(1,297,603)	-	103,954	(1,193,649)
Total	740,500	582,170	-	1,322,670

The notes on pages 22 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

1 Accounting Policies

- 1.1 The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, subject to the revaluation of freehold and investment property. The financial statements are prepared in compliance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102), the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic Ireland.

Variety, the Children's Charity (Variety) is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales, registered address Variety House, 93 Bayham Street, London NW1 0AG.

Variety meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Monetary amounts are presented in pound sterling as that is the functional currency of the Charity. Figures are rounded to the nearest £.

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected cashflows and income and expenditure for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least a year from the date the accounts are signed. The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will be able to continue in business and meet its liabilities as they fall due. The accounts have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

1.2 Income and expenditure

All incoming resources, including legacies and governments grants, are recognised as income when Variety is entitled to the income, that it is probable the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis and includes irrecoverable VAT. Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Grants payable are charged in the year where the offer is conveyed to the recipient except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions are no longer seen to be within the control of the Trustees. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

- 1.3 Donated goods and services are included in the financial statements at a valuation which is an estimate of the market value of the services provided, where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the committee members and other volunteers is not recognised. However, the Trustees' annual report provides more information about their contribution.

- 1.4 Expenditure on raising funds are those costs which are incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

- 1.5 Charitable activities include grants and donations applied for the purchase of Sunshine Coaches and electric wheelchairs, grants for the benefit of individuals, hospitals and other organisations to help sick and disabled children. These include both the direct costs and support costs relating to the various activities.

- 1.6 Support costs relate to costs of central activities. These are allocated to activities in proportion to staff time on the relevant activity.

- 1.7 Governance costs, which are included in support costs include those incurred in the governance of the Charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.8 Basis of consolidation

The consolidated accounts incorporate the financial statements of Variety, the Children's Charity (Variety) and its subsidiary undertaking, Variety Events Limited (Events), consolidated on a line by line basis.

1.9 Restricted funds

Where a donor has specified a particular purpose for a donation, all transactions have been reflected within restricted funds. Movements in these funds are detailed in note 14 to the financial statements.

1.10 Depreciation

Variety took the option under FRS 102 to treat the previous valuation of the freehold land and property as deemed cost. Other tangible assets are carried at historical cost. Depreciation is provided to write off the cost, less estimated residual values, of all fixed assets over their expected useful lives. It is calculated on the original cost (or valuation) of the assets at the following rates:

Office equipment	-	20% to 33% per annum
Freehold building	-	2% per annum

There is no set limit below which fixed assets are not capitalised.

1.11 Pension costs

Contributions to Variety's money purchase group personal pension plan are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the accounting period in which they are payable.

1.12 Investment property

Investment property, which is property held to earn rent and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at deemed cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.13 Financial instruments

Variety only has financial instruments and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments, including trade and other debtors, and cash and bank balances, are initially recognised at the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less impairment.

Financial assets are derecognised when (a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or (b) substantially all the risks and rewards of the ownership of the asset are transferred to another party.

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other creditors, and loans from third parties are initially recognised at the transaction price. Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods and services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Trade creditors are initially recognised at the transaction price and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Debt instruments include bank loans and mortgages. These are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.14 Critical accounting 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 period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The financial statements include the following key estimates:

The freehold property comprises three floors, two of which are occupied by Variety and the third floor is let at a commercial rent. The third floor investment property was revalued as at 31 December 2022 at £1.605m on 10 March 2023 by Robert Irving Burns Limited, 29-30 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 6LQ. The estimated market value was based on the long leasehold interest, with the previous tenancy. The trustees assessed the value of the property as at 31 December 2023 and having considered expected rental levels based on advice from local agents, the Trustees are satisfied that the value of the property has not materially changed.

The Charity estimates the value of intangible income using publicly available price lists, or through direct confirmation with the suppliers of the amount that would have been charged had the gift or donated service been invoiced.

2 Net income from trading activities of subsidiary

The principal activity of the subsidiary, Variety Events Limited (company no. 02280720), is the organisation and promotion of fund-raising activities and the sale of merchandise on behalf of Variety. A summary of the results is set out below. Audited accounts are filed with the Registrar of Companies.

Profit and loss account	2023	2022
	£	£
Turnover	965,535	1,166,175
Cost of sales	(597,299)	(688,476)
Gross profit	368,236	477,699
Interest received	1,329	-
Administrative costs	(284,544)	(283,170)
Net profit	85,021	194,529
Gift aid donation to Charity	85,021	194,529
Retained profit	-	-

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:

Assets	852,014	1,162,243
Liabilities	(851,914)	(1,162,143)
Funds (representing 100 ordinary shares of £1 each)	100	100

3 Donated goods and services

	2023	2022
	£	£
Intangible Income - Gift in Kind	140,401	193,590
	140,401	193,590

Total expenditure includes £140,401 (2022: £193,590) an equivalent amount being described as Intangible Income (Gift in Kind) in the Statement of Financial Activities. This amount is in respect of Variety Great Days Out activities.

4 Employees

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	837,411	678,074
Social security costs	73,423	74,234
Other pension costs	52,132	37,606
	962,966	789,914

Included in the above are payments arising on termination of employments of £45,813 (2022: nil).

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
Fundraising	5	4
Events	5	6
Sunshine Coaches	2	1
Wheelchairs	1	1
Grants	2	2
Support	5	4
	20	18

The number of employees whose total remuneration (excluding pension) exceeded £60,000 was as follows:

	Number 2023	Number 2022
£70,000 to £79,999	-	1
£110,000 to £119,999	1	-

The key management personnel of Variety comprises the Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Management Team. There were some changes in the team in the year. As a result of this, the charity's key management personnel was a larger group this year. The total combined contractual benefits of the key management personnel of Variety was £456,065 (2022: £241,498).

5 Expenditure

	Direct staff costs	Grant costs (Note 17)	Other direct costs	Support costs (Note 6)	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
2023					
Expenditure on raising donations and legacies	233,048	-	37,587	415,397	686,032
Cost of sales of trading subsidiary	-	-	597,299	-	597,299
Events support	258,693	-	-	384,056	642,749
	<u>491,741</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>634,886</u>	<u>799,453</u>	<u>1,926,080</u>
Sunshine Coaches	70,314	2,668,751	-	125,974	2,865,039
Wheelchairs	46,399	357,769	-	74,483	478,651
Equipment Grants	40,394	205,584	-	89,095	335,073
Variety Great Days Out	33,001	209,508	-	51,090	293,599
	<u>190,108</u>	<u>3,441,612</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>340,642</u>	<u>3,972,362</u>
	<u>681,849</u>	<u>3,441,612</u>	<u>634,886</u>	<u>1,140,095</u>	<u>5,898,442</u>

	Direct staff costs	Grant costs (Note 17)	Other direct costs	Support costs (Note 6)	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
2022					
Expenditure on raising donations and legacies	221,476	-	27,221	326,725	575,422
Cost of sales of trading subsidiary	-	-	686,391	-	686,391
Events support	248,441	-	-	379,786	628,227
	<u>469,917</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>713,612</u>	<u>706,511</u>	<u>1,890,040</u>
Sunshine Coaches	46,362	2,017,798	-	88,594	2,152,754
Wheelchairs	20,226	272,622	-	40,766	333,614
Equipment Grants	46,956	156,251	-	88,084	291,291
Variety Great Days Out	-	236,000	-	-	236,000
	<u>113,544</u>	<u>2,682,671</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>217,444</u>	<u>3,013,659</u>
	<u>583,461</u>	<u>2,682,671</u>	<u>713,612</u>	<u>923,955</u>	<u>4,903,699</u>

6 Support Costs

	Staff	Depreciation	Other	Total
	£	£	£	£
2023				
Governance/Legal	35,394	-	126,557	161,951
Finance & Administration	155,111	-	90,000	245,111
IT & Database	24,337	-	72,126	96,463
Office costs	-	-	179,448	179,448
Interest payable	-	-	68,154	68,154
HR/Staff related costs	14,234	-	98,960	113,194
Media/Publicity	52,041	-	137,061	189,102
Other support costs	-	45,981	40,691	86,672
	<u>281,117</u>	<u>45,981</u>	<u>812,997</u>	<u>1,140,095</u>

	Staff	Depreciation	Other	Total
	£	£	£	£
2022				
Governance/Legal	25,141	-	134,781	159,922
Finance & Administration	100,326	-	-	100,326
IT & Database	23,911	-	109,402	133,313
Office costs	5,842	-	239,344	245,186
Interest payable	-	-	67,075	67,075
HR/Staff related costs	-	-	71,835	71,835
Media/Publicity	51,231	-	22,489	73,720
Other support costs	-	38,831	33,747	72,578
	<u>206,451</u>	<u>38,831</u>	<u>678,673</u>	<u>923,955</u>

7 Net expenditure/ income is stated after charging:	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation		
- office equipment	21,797	14,647
- freehold building	24,184	24,184
Auditors' remuneration - audit	36,700	35,300
Auditors' remuneration - taxation and advice services	9,870	11,164
Operating lease expenditure	17,574	21,318

8 Tangible assets	Freehold land and buildings	Office equipment	Total
Group and company	£	£	£
Cost			
1 January 2023	2,279,182	125,827	2,405,009
Additions	-	15,045	15,045
Disposals	-	(36,317)	(36,317)
31 December 2023	2,279,182	104,555	2,383,737
Depreciation			
1 January 2023	662,652	77,925	740,577
Charge for the year	24,184	21,797	45,981
Disposals	-	(36,317)	(36,317)
31 December 2023	686,836	63,405	750,241
Net book value at 31 December 2023	1,592,346	41,150	1,633,496
Net book value at 31 December 2022	1,616,530	47,902	1,664,432

9 Fixed asset investments	Notes	Group 2023	Company	Group 2022	Company
		£	£	£	£
Investment in subsidiary	(a)	-	100	-	100
Investment property	(b)	1,605,000	1,605,000	1,605,000	1,605,000
		1,605,000	1,605,100	1,605,000	1,605,100

(a) Variety owns all the issued shares (100 Ordinary shares of £1 each) in Variety Events Limited, a Company which is registered and operates in England (Variety House, 93 Bayham Street, London NW1 0AG) and whose main activity is the organisation and promotion of fund-raising activities and the sale of Gold Hearts and other merchandise on behalf of Variety. These are included in the financial statements at cost. Details of the result for the year and financial position of Variety Events Limited are provided in Note 2 to the financial statements.

(b) The freehold property comprises three floors, two of which are occupied by Variety and the third floor is let at a commercial rent. The third floor investment property was revalued as at 31 December 2022 at £1.605m on 10 March 2023 by Robert Irving Burns Limited, 29-30 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 6LQ. The estimated market value was based on the long leasehold interest, with the previous tenancy. The trustees assessed the value of the property as at 31 December 2023 and having considered expected rental levels based on advice from local agents, the Trustees are satisfied that the value of the property has not materially changed.

10 Debtors	Group 2023	Company	Group 2022	Company
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	104,094	29,097	120,981	49,143
Amounts due from subsidiary undertaking	-	664,187	-	1,110,089
Other debtors	101,367	101,367	30,853	22,181
Prepayments and accrued income	362,650	332,280	366,604	333,671
	568,111	1,126,931	518,438	1,515,084

All debtors are due within one year.

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	Group 2023 £	Company £	Group 2022 £	Company £
Accruals for grants payable	942,556	942,556	168,082	168,082
Mortgage (secured - see note 12)	53,954	53,954	51,081	51,081
Bank loan (see note 12)	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Trade creditors	146,884	54,551	41,291	34,245
Accruals and deferred income	141,181	61,619	125,608	88,592
Other creditors	66,334	50,502	9,381	1,390
	1,400,909	1,213,182	445,443	393,390

Increase in accruals for grants payable is mainly due to delays in Sunshine Coach manufacturing and change in to new supplier.

The movement in creditors for grants and donations is as follow:

	2022 £	Charge for the year £	Payments £	2023 £
Wheelchairs	33,519	362,177	(379,592)	16,104
Sunshine Coaches	79,069	2,668,751	(1,841,650)	906,170
Equipment Grants	55,494	207,040	(242,252)	20,282
	168,082	3,237,968	(2,463,494)	942,556

	2021 £	Charge for the year £	Payments £	2022 £
Wheelchairs	63,544	274,122	(304,147)	33,519
Sunshine Coaches	82,612	1,998,058	(2,001,601)	79,069
Equipment Grants	65,757	153,499	(163,762)	55,494
	211,913	2,425,679	(2,469,510)	168,082

Deferred income

Deferred income comprises advance ticket sales for various events, London Marathon registration fees and rental income received in advance.

	Group £	Company £
Balance as at 1 January 2023	39,201	27,201
Amount released to income earned	(39,201)	(27,201)
Amount deferred in year	60,842	-
Balance as at 31 December 2023	60,842	-

	Group £	Company £
Balance as at 1 January 2022	89,759	26,924
Amount released to income earned	(89,759)	(26,924)
Amount deferred in year	39,201	27,201
Balance as at 31 December 2022	39,201	27,201

12 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

Group and company	2023 £	2022 £
Mortgage (secured)	1,118,649	1,172,603
Bank Loan (Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan)	75,000	125,000
	1,193,649	1,297,603

Mortgage (secured)

The mortgage is secured on Variety's freehold land and building and is repayable over the remaining period of 4 years and 3 months at interest rates of 5.51% and 3.19% per annum as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
In more than one year but not more than two years	56,989	53,954
In more than two years but not more than five years	123,775	180,764
In more than five years	937,885	937,885
	1,118,649	1,172,603

The proportion of the loan to the value of the assets charged is:

37%	37%
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12 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (continued)

Bank Loan (Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan)

The Government paid the interest on the loan for the first 12 months to 9th June 2022 (Business Interruption Payment). The bank loan is repayable over the remaining period of 30 months at an interest rate of 2.09% p.a. over Base Rate

	2023 £	2022 £
In more than one year but not more than two years	50,000	50,000
In more than two years but not more than five years	25,000	75,000
	<u>75,000</u>	<u>125,000</u>

13 Analysis of group net assets between funds

	2023 £	2023 £	2023 £
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Fixed assets	3,238,496	-	3,238,496
Current assets	1,044,066	2,144,318	3,188,384
Current liabilities	(458,353)	(942,556)	(1,400,909)
Long-term liabilities	(1,193,649)	-	(1,193,649)
Total net assets	<u>2,630,560</u>	<u>1,201,762</u>	<u>3,832,322</u>
	2022 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets	3,269,432	-	3,269,432
Current assets	1,528,149	1,129,473	2,657,622
Current liabilities	(277,361)	(168,082)	(445,443)
Long-term liabilities	(1,297,603)	-	(1,297,603)
Total net assets	<u>3,222,617</u>	<u>961,391</u>	<u>4,184,008</u>

14 Movement on funds

Group and company

	2023 Opening Balance £	2023 Income £	2023 Expenditure £	2023 Transfers/ gains and (losses) £	2023 Closing Balance £
Unrestricted funds	<u>3,222,617</u>	<u>1,699,385</u>	<u>(2,291,442)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,630,560</u>
Restricted funds					
Sunshine Coach Programme incl. Variety Golf	417,072	3,070,805	(2,826,435)	-	661,442
Wheelchair Programme	245,075	270,190	(390,276)	-	124,989
Special Purpose Funds	206,157	506,376	(390,289)	-	322,244
Kings College Hospital	93,087	-	-	-	93,087
	<u>961,391</u>	<u>3,847,371</u>	<u>(3,607,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,201,762</u>
Total funds	<u>4,184,008</u>	<u>5,546,756</u>	<u>(5,898,442)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,832,322</u>
	2022 Opening Balance £	2022 Income £	2022 Expenditure £	2022 Transfers/ gains and (losses) £	2022 Closing Balance £
Unrestricted funds	<u>3,147,888</u>	<u>2,392,707</u>	<u>(2,237,978)</u>	<u>(80,000)</u>	<u>3,222,617</u>
Restricted funds					
Sunshine Coach Programme	221,843	2,271,036	(2,075,807)	-	417,072
Wheelchair Programme	146,277	323,889	(225,091)	-	245,075
Special Purpose Funds	181,052	389,928	(364,823)	-	206,157
Kings College Hospital	93,087	-	-	-	93,087
	<u>642,259</u>	<u>2,984,853</u>	<u>(2,665,721)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>961,391</u>
Total funds	<u>3,790,147</u>	<u>5,377,560</u>	<u>(4,903,699)</u>	<u>(80,000)</u>	<u>4,184,008</u>

The loss of £80,000 for the year ended 31 December 2022 reflects the loss on revaluation of the investment property.

14 Movement on funds (continued)

Sunshine Coaches Programme

The fund comprises monies raised to provide Sunshine Coaches, excluding funds raised by Variety Golf or contributions from Variety's Special Purpose Funds. Sunshine Coaches are presented to schools, hospitals, children's homes and other such organisations throughout the UK.

Wheelchair Programme

The Wheelchair Programme Committee raises funds to deal with the heavy demand for indoor/outdoor electric wheelchairs and sports/lightweight wheelchairs which are not currently provided by the NHS.

Special Purpose Funds

Variety works closely with donors to help them raise funds and to match those funds to suitable projects. Special Purpose Funds reflect restricted funds raised to help sick, disabled and disadvantaged children and young people who have not yet been matched to specific projects.

Kings College Hospital

Funds raised to contribute to the building of a new wing at the Variety Children's Hospital at Kings.

15 Taxation status

Variety is a registered charity and is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable income, provided this is spent on charitable purposes.

The subsidiary undertaking's profits are donated to Variety under Gift Aid through a deed of covenant. Accordingly there is no provision for taxation on its profit for the year.

16 Members' liability

As Variety is limited by guarantee, there is no share capital. At 31 December 2023, there were 10 members (2022 - 12), each of whom have undertaken to contribute to the assets in the event of Variety being wound up, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £1.

17 Grants and donations

2023	Individuals		Institutions		Total	
	£	No	£	No	£	No
Equipment Grants	191,655	93	13,929	3	205,584	96
Sunshine Coaches	-	-	2,668,751	49	2,668,751	49
Wheelchairs	357,769	54	-	-	357,769	54
Variety Great Days Out	209,508	7,956	-	-	209,508	7,956
	<u>758,932</u>	<u>8,103</u>	<u>2,682,680</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>3,441,612</u>	<u>8,155</u>

Analysis of grants £5,000 and over made to institutions:

	£
Castledon School, Wickford	58,790
Cherry Garden, London	58,790
Cleaswell Hill, Choppington	58,790
Five Acre School, Maidstone	58,790
Little Heath Specialist School, Romford	58,790
Marjorie McClure, Chislehurst	58,790
Montacute School, Poole	58,790
Osborne School, Winchester	58,790
Sunningdale School, Sunderland	58,790
Thomas Wolsey Ormiston Academy, Ipswich	58,790
Manor Green College, Crawley	58,790
Woodfield School, Merstham	58,790
Clare School, Norwich	58,790
Chapel Green School, Attleborough	58,790
St Roses Special School, Stroud	57,116
Taylor Made Dreams, East Sussex	57,116
Bower Green School, Maidstone	54,977
Brairwood School, Bristol	54,616
Delamere School, Manchester	54,616
Marlborough School, Sidcup	54,616
Northgate College, Northampton	54,616
Merstone School, Birmingham	54,616
Balance carried forward	<u>1,265,349</u>

17 Grants and donations (continued)

	£
Balance brought forward	1,265,349
Oaks Specialist College, Tonbridge	54,616
Rainbow Hospice, Loughborough	54,616
SPACE, Ware	54,616
The Chiltern School, Houghton Regis	54,616
Bracken Hill School, Kirkby in Ashfield	52,477
Clare Mount Specialist School, Wirral	52,477
Elm Tree Primary School, West Bromwich	52,477
Essex Primary School, London	52,477
Holy Trinity Youth Club, Belfast	52,477
Kirklees Adventure Trust, Huddersfield	52,477
Mellers School, Nottingham	52,477
Parkhill School, Glasgow	52,477
Stanhope Primary School, Tyne & Wear	52,477
Hendon School, London	52,477
St Joseph's Specialist School, Cranleigh	51,850
Alsop High, Liverpool	49,350
Highpark School, Glasgow	49,350
Jigsaw Trust, Cranleigh	49,350
Mudchute Farm, London	49,350
DABD, Dagenham	49,350
Hawkswood Group, London	49,350
Highfield Ely Academy, Ely	49,350
Lampard Community School, Barnstaple	49,350
Meadow High School, Uxbridge	49,350
Meadowfield School, Sittingbourne	49,350
The Walnut School, Milton Keynes	49,350
CASPA Midfield Primary School, Bromley	48,850
Richmond Park Academy, London	16,612
Chatsworth High School, Manchester	11,026
Donations under £5,000	2,909
	<u>2,682,680</u>

2022	Individuals		Institutions		Total	
	£	No	£	No	£	No
Equipment Grants	148,751	80	7,500	1	156,251	81
Sunshine Coaches	-	-	2,017,798	51	2,017,798	51
Wheelchairs	272,622	52	-	-	272,622	52
Variety Great Days Out	236,000	5,726	-	-	236,000	5,726
	<u>657,373</u>	<u>5,858</u>	<u>2,025,298</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>2,682,671</u>	<u>5,910</u>

Analysis of grants £5,000 and over made to institutions: £

Childrens Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS), Edinburgh	92,958
Beacroft Foundation School, Wimborne	70,024
Willaston Farm, Merseyside	49,569
Trafford Alternative Education Provision, Altrincham	46,831
Slated Row School, Milton Keynes	46,831
Walton Leigh School, Walton on Thames	46,831
Kisharon Noe School, London	46,831
Perrymount School, London	46,831
Summerdown School, Eastbourne	46,831
Watergate School, London	46,831
Addington School, Reading	46,831
Newfriars College, Stoke on Trent	46,831
Green Lane Community Special School, Warrington	46,831
Ynysowen Primary School, Methyr	46,831
Ysgol Penmaes, Brecon	46,831
Oakfield Park School, Pontefract	46,831
Durham Trinity School & Sports College, Durham	44,505
Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, Barnet	44,505
Oak Lodge School, London	44,205
Foxwood Special School, Nottingham	43,567
The Log Cabin, London	41,823
Balance carried forward	1,039,959

17 Grants and donations (continued)	£
Balance brought forward	1,039,959
The Livity School, London	41,823
Broadfield Special School, Accrington	41,823
Abercorn Secondary School, Glasgow	41,823
The Harbour School, Portsmouth	41,823
Meadow High School, Uxbridge	41,823
Greenhill School, Cardiff	37,694
Allens Croft Primary School, Birmingham	35,012
Baraka Community Association, London	35,012
West Heath School, Kent	35,012
Highfields College, Stockport	35,012
Dorchester Learning Centre, Dorchester	35,012
St Aloysius Primary Federation, Tyne & Wear	35,012
Benton Dene School, Newcastle upon Tyne	35,012
Bethany Junior School, Bournemouth	35,012
Kettlebrook Short Stay School, Staffordshire	32,338
Greenfields Academy, Grantham	32,338
Woodlands Academy, Peterborough	32,338
Queens Park Primary School, London	32,338
Summerdown School, Eastbourne	32,338
Riverside School, London	32,338
Jigsaw Trust, Cranleigh	32,338
Grange Park Primary School, Kent	32,338
St John Vianney School, Manchester	32,338
Moorfield Community Primaty School, Salford	32,338
The Forest School, Knaresborough	32,338
The Trinity School, Essex	32,238
Richmond Park Academy, London	32,238
Bramingham Primary School, Bedfordshire	30,740
Alder Tree Primary Academy, Leeds	7,500
Donations under £5,000	-
	<u>2,025,298</u>

18 Commitments

As at 31 December 2023, Variety had approved in principle, applications requesting to supply Sunshine Coaches totalling £nil (2022: £119,115). The grants are conditional upon specific funding being raised to finance the cost of the coaches. The specific funding for these coaches had not been confirmed at the year end.

19 Pensions

Variety operates a money purchase group personal pension plan. There are a number of individual pension plans to which Variety contributes.

20 Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/ income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/ income for the reporting period	(351,686)	393,861
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	45,981	38,831
Losses/ (gains) on investments	-	80,000
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	(95,321)	(118,525)
Interest paid	68,154	67,075
(Increase) in debtors	(49,673)	(134,979)
Increase/ (Decrease) in creditors	952,593	(113,286)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>570,048</u>	<u>212,977</u>

21 Operating lessor commitments

At 31 December 2023, the group was entitled to receive no future payments from non-cancellable operating leases (2022 - £73,500) as set out below.

	Rental income	
Receipts due in:	2023	2022
	£	£
Less than 1 year	-	73,500
	-	73,500

22 Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2023, the group had future lease payments of £11,112 (2022 - £11,112) payable under non-cancellable operating leases as set out below.

	Office Equipment	
Payments due in:	2023	2022
	£	£
Less than 1 year	649	10,463
Between 1 and 2 years	-	649
	649	11,112

23 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

None of the Trustees received either remuneration or reimbursed expenditure during this financial year or the last financial year.

The total amount of donations received from the Trustees or their companies during the year was £44,024 (2022: £19,962) of which £10,000 was given towards Sunshine Coaches (2022: nil) and £21,547 was restricted to individual grants and wheelchairs (2022: £15,500). The remainder £12,477 was unrestricted (2022: £4,462). Trustees also supported the Charity's fundraising events. The total amount received from Trustees or their companies during the year from tickets and other purchases in support of the Charity's fundraising events was £31,250 (2022: £29,255).

During the year, as permitted and subject to strict protocols, the Group entered into the following arrangements in which the following Trustees had an interest:

Solicitor fees £4,800 (2022: £1,877) payable to Statham Gill Davies, a company of which Ms Talya Shalson (appointed as a director 27 February 2023) is a partner.

Share of Access Interns costs £5,000 (2022: nil) payable to The Kartik Foundation, a foundation of which Mr Tushar Prabhu is a trustee.

At the year end the following were owed to Variety for the purchase of tickets to a fundraising event.

Vetiver Properties Ltd £3,500 (2022: £3,500) (Mr Jason Lewis was a director and his wife is a director and shareholder of this company)

Transactions and balances between the Charity and its trading subsidiary, Variety Events Limited, are set out in the notes to the accounts (see notes 2 and 10).

VARIETY THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY

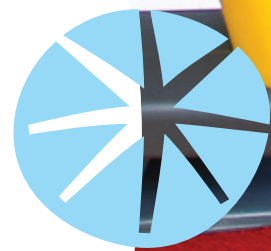
England & Wales - Charity number 209259

Accounts



the children's charity

Annual report and accounts 2022



Annual Report and Accounts 2022

Year ended 31 December 2022

Chair of Trustees' Report

I am delighted to present the 2022 annual report and accounts for Variety, the Children's Charity. We are dedicated to empowering disabled and disadvantaged children. This year has been one of rebuilding and growth for our charity, as we continue to support our beneficiaries in the aftermath of the global pandemic.

The Covid-19 pandemic had far-reaching consequences for disabled and disadvantaged children and their families. Lockdowns, social distancing measures and economic uncertainty exacerbated existing challenges for this vulnerable population. During 2022, the impact of the war in Ukraine, higher inflation and interest rates and the resulting cost of living crisis has continued to make life very challenging for the communities and families that we serve. With the unwavering support of our many sponsors and donors we have been able to continue to make a significant contribution to improving the lives of disabled and disadvantaged children.

During 2022, despite the difficult economic environment, Variety was able to return to a full timetable of fundraising events. These included the PROPS awards, the Gastronomic Evening, the Legends of Industry and a new event, Variety Rocks. We also successfully re-launched our well known Variety Club Show Business awards which was our largest fundraising event of the year. These larger events were supplemented by various fundraising events across the country led by our Variety community. We also continued to work on improving our reach in all other forms of fundraising including corporates, individual and legacies. As a result of these events and initiatives and thanks to the generosity of our many donors we were able to raise over £5.3 million, a significant increase over last year.

We are immensely grateful to each and every one of our supporters for every penny raised for our cause. I also want to take this opportunity to express thanks to our two largest donors.

Variety Golf, led by Pip Burley and Jamie Little, continued to thrive with an extensive programme of Golf days, lunches and dinners and their membership contributed nearly £800k to our Sunshine Coach programme in 2022.

Michael Josephson MBE helped us raise over £365,000 with a very generous donation from the proceeds of the Michael Josephson MBE Charity Ball as well as through his leadership of our Patrons programme.

Variety and its facilities together help on average over 50,000 children every year.

During the year we focused on four primary areas of support:

Providing Sunshine Coaches: Our charity sponsored the purchase of 51 fully equipped wheelchair-accessible buses at a cost of over £2 million so that SEND and mainstream schools could transport disabled students to a wide range of external activities.

Annual Report and Accounts 2022

Providing wheelchairs: We spent over £270,000 providing specialist wheelchairs to 52 children, allowing them to participate more fully in their education, sports, and social activities.

Providing special equipment grants: We have granted over £155,000 in funding for specialist equipment, enabling disabled and disadvantaged children to engage in activities they might not have been able to otherwise.

Allowing disabled and disadvantaged children and their families to have fun days out: Recognising the importance of leisure and recreation, we facilitated fun days out for over 5,700 disabled and disadvantaged children and their families. These outings have provided much-needed respite and bonding opportunities for families, fostering a sense of community and belonging.

We also continued our engagement with the Variety Children's Hospital: our flagship healthcare project and one of the UK's leading medical centres for children. Located in the Cheyne Wing of King's College Hospital's main site in London, the Variety Children's Hospital has a dedicated critical care centre, a day-care unit, busy outpatient department and four inpatient wards. Every year it treats and cares for more than 40,000 children.

We are immensely proud of the impact our work has had in 2022. The success of our initiatives would not have been possible without the generosity and commitment of our donors, volunteers, and partner organizations. We are grateful for your continued support as we work to make a positive difference in the lives of disabled and disadvantaged children.

As we look ahead to 2023, we are eager to expand our reach and deepen our impact. To achieve this, we will continue to identify and address the most pressing needs of our beneficiaries, while also exploring new partnerships and collaborations. Additionally, we will be working on our fundraising efforts to ensure the sustainability of our programmes and projects.

I am thankful for the commitment and hard work demonstrated by our previous Chair of Trustees, Tushar Prabhu, trustees and committee members in guiding the charity out of the pandemic with their valuable combination of experience and expertise.

In conclusion, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our entire community for your unwavering dedication and support. Together, we are changing the lives of disabled and disadvantaged children, providing them with the tools and opportunities they need to flourish. We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and look forward to your continued involvement in our mission.



Professor Jonathan Shalit OBE

Chair of Trustees

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TRUSTEES 2022

Variety, the Children's Charity

- Professor Jonathan Shalit OBE
- Tushar Prabhu
- Tesula Mohindra
- Dilly Kitchlew-Willamson
- Guy Remond
- Ben Whittle
- Stanley Salter (retired 1 March 2023)
- Candice Sammeroff (appointed 27 February 2023)
- Talya Shalson (appointed 27 February 2023)
- Tania Bryer (appointed 22 May 2023)

Chief Executive

Conrad Hollingsworth

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Secretary:

Talya Shalson

Registered office:

Variety House
93 Bayham Street
London NW1 0AG

Charity number:

209259 (England and Wales)
SC038505 (Scotland)

Company number:

509811 (England and Wales)

Auditors:

Saffery LLP
71 Queen Victoria Street
London
EC4V 4BE

Bankers:

NatWest
2nd Floor, Argyll House
246 Regent Street
London
W1B 3PB

Annual Report and Accounts 2022

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

The Trustees submit their Annual Report and Financial Statements of Variety, the Children's Charity, a company limited by guarantee, for the year ended 31 December 2022. The Trustees' Annual Report includes the Directors' Report for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006.

Structure, governance and management

The charity has 9 Trustees, who are elected every three years, with one third due for re-election each year. They convene at least four times each year. There is a supporting committee covering Audit, Finance and Risk which also convenes at least four times each year.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

New trustee appointments are made by the existing board of trustees. They are selected on the basis of the skills, experience and overall contribution they are able to bring to the charity.

Candidates are sourced through a variety of channels, including direct approach, referral and headhunters. Once recruited, new Trustees have an induction and are provided with ongoing support and training to meet their responsibilities.

Trustees' induction and ongoing involvement includes visits to the activities delivered by the charity and presentations of Sunshine Coaches, wheelchairs and other equipment, engagement with beneficiaries, meetings with programme staff, senior staff, volunteers and stakeholders, including funders and corporate supporters.

On appointment, Trustees sign a register of interests, which is renewed annually.

The Trustees are responsible for governance, strategy, risk management, setting headline objectives and monitoring performance against these objectives. To this end, Trustees receive regular updates, including full reports on activities, targets, impact and financial information, including management accounts on a quarterly basis. Business plans and strategic plans are discussed, agreed, amended and revised by the Trustees at Board meetings.

To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority, within the terms of delegation approved by the Trustees, for the operational matters of the charity.

The Chief Executive reports on performance against the strategic and operational plans approved by the Board and meets with the Chair on a regular basis.

The Chief Executive has responsibility for recruitment and management of the Senior Management Team to ensure that programmes and values are delivered and upheld against plans and priorities agreed by the Board. The Senior Management Team has experience in charity communications and marketing, charity programmes, fundraising, finance, HR and operations and meets on a regular basis with the Chief Executive to discuss operations and strategy.

The Trustees during the year were:

Malcolm Brenner (retired 31 March 2022), Anthony Harris (retired 1 March 2022), Dilly Kitchlew-Williamson, Jason Lewis (retired 9 December 2022), Tesula Mohindra, Ronnie Nathan (retired 9 December 2022), Tushar Prabhu, Guy Remond, Stanley Salter (retired 1 March 2023), Professor Jonathan Shalit OBE, Neil Sinclair (retired 9 December 2022), Pamela Sinclair (retired 31 March 2022), Ben Whittle (appointed 11 February 2022).

History

Variety was formed in 1928 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. On Christmas eve the year before, a baby named Catherine was found abandoned in the Sheridan Theatre by members of the "Variety Club", an informal group of leading businessmen across all aspects of the entertainment industry - from 'icecapades' to films, theatre and showbusiness. The Variety Club decided to adopt her, named her 'Catherine Variety Sheridan' and launched a children's charity in her honour. Its first Dinner was staged in a ballroom decorated like a Big Top circus tent, from which followed the terminology of "Tents" and "Barkers". The charity was brought to the UK in 1949 by HRH, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and Frank Sinatra and inaugurated at a dinner at the Savoy Hotel in London.

Variety, the Children's Charity

Annual Report and Accounts 2022

Employees and volunteers

At the end of December 2022, Variety employed 22 people (both full-time and part-time) in its offices across England and Scotland. The charity depends on the commitment and hard work of these staff, who are highly valued. Traditionally, Variety is a volunteer-run charity and relies heavily on volunteer involvement for the running of its many events, including fundraising events and Variety Great Days Out. The Trustees are enormously indebted to these volunteers for their continued support.

Volunteers assist us in a diverse range of roles and activities, at many levels, and throughout the UK. For example, volunteers serve on committees across England and Scotland, for the following aspects of the charity's activities:

- Events
- Fundraising
- Programmes
- Special projects

Management remuneration policy

The Chief Executive is appointed by the Trustees. All other key management personnel are appointed by the Chief Executive. Appointments and ongoing remunerations at this level take into account the following factors:

- The charity's ability to pay the wages of senior staff.
- The types of skills, experiences and competencies the charity needs from its senior staff and the scope of the role being recruited.
- The charity's objectives and the number and nature of senior staff needed to fulfil these.
- The impact of market rates on appointments.

Equal opportunities

Variety is committed to the principle and practice of equal opportunities and aims to be an equal opportunities employer. Variety's employment policy aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, disability, national origin, race, religion and sex or any other grounds which are unjustifiable in terms of equality of opportunity for all.

Annual Report and Accounts 2022

Objectives and activities

The legal objects of the charity, as set out in the Memorandum of Association, the governing document of Variety, are as follows:

- To promote and provide for the care and upbringing of sick, disabled and disadvantaged children up to the age of nineteen within the United Kingdom.
- The advancement of education and the relief of financial need of children within the United Kingdom.
- To undertake, and to assist others to undertake, research into any illness or affliction affecting children which will advance knowledge and to publish the useful results of such research.
- The provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation for children in the interests of their social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for such children.

Public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the trustees have given due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Meeting our objectives through Variety's work

When statutory funding cannot adequately meet a child's needs, Variety steps in. Providing high quality, practical, bespoke equipment solutions, and educational experiences through memorable activities, remains Variety's fundamental objective.

We support children in four ways:

- **Mobility** - our equipment grants fund customised wheelchairs and Sunshine Coaches for schools - helping children travel safely, learn on the move and embrace a sense of freedom and discovery.
- **Education** - our equipment and tech grants to youth clubs and young people's organisations encourage learning, develop skills and boost confidence and mental health.
- **Experiences** - we love creating memories through Variety Great Days Out - experiences that broaden horizons, offer positive role models, encourage social mobility - and are great fun.

- **Health** - we equip children's hospitals, including our own Variety Children's Hospital, with the latest medical technology and life-changing aids.

Grant-giving activities

Our grant-giving this year has included the provision of Sunshine Coaches to schools and other institutions catering for children with special educational needs and the provision of grants to individuals for wheelchairs and specialist equipment. As we continued our journey out of the Covid-19 pandemic, our priority continued to be meeting the immediate needs of children through providing grants to individuals. To fulfil this demand, we are not currently providing wheelchair and specialist equipment grants to institutions. Our grant-giving programmes improve children and young people's mental and physical wellbeing, reduce loneliness and social isolation, enable independence and mobility, increase participation in sport, contribute to sustained improvements in health and physical development and more.

Experiences

In addition to our grant-giving programmes, Variety also provides memorable and valuable childhood experiences through our Variety Great Days Out programme. The programme aims to improve wellbeing in children and young people by reducing social isolation and increasing participation in previously inaccessible experiences. We do this by removing barriers to opportunities, by building social skills and increasing confidence. In short, these trips out are of the kind that most children take for granted but which our beneficiaries may not otherwise have the chance to enjoy or participate in.

The impact of our programmes

In 2022, excluding administrative and support costs, we spent over £2.7m (2021: £1.9m) on the provision of 5,910 grants, wheelchairs, sunshine coaches, gifts and days out to disabled and disadvantaged children to help them to receive better care, to improve their mobility, independence and wellbeing, to facilitate their access to education and to better cope with the pressures of the ongoing pandemic.

Annual Report and Accounts 2022

Equipment grants

In 2022 Variety provided 81 grants for types of equipment relating to care, mobility, and wellbeing at an average of £1,929 each, totalling £156,251.

These grants comprised:

- 17 items of sensory equipment
- 11 specialist beds or cots
- 15 assistive devices enabling mobility (including car seats and walking frames)
- 11 car seats
- 5 hoists or harnesses
- 4 sets of outdoor play equipment
- 18 other items (including epilepsy alarms and sensors and prescription swimming goggles)

Lillie's story

13-year-old Lillie lives in Hertfordshire. Since birth, she has surpassed all expectations and defied the odds, achieving what doctors predicted would not be possible for her.

Lillie has four-limb Cerebral Palsy with global developmental delay and severe learning difficulties. She is non-verbal, doubly incontinent and has no sense of danger or safety awareness. She needs adult supervision at all times during waking hours.

Although doctors predicted that she would never be able to even sit up by herself, Lillie is now able to walk and she continues to surpass expectations. As mum Gemma says, "She's just incredible really."

Lillie's family got in touch with Variety when her safety sleeper bed broke beyond repair. This is a vital piece of equipment for Lillie and her family as it stops her from getting out of bed and wandering in the night, which could lead to her causing herself serious harm.

The new Variety-funded safety sleeper has more than met the family's expectations. The much larger size means that Lillie is happy and comfortable at night, while the sturdy frame has prevented any more breakages - a frequent problem with Lillie's old bed and a source of continual and added stress and anxiety on the family.

Not only does this new safety sleeper make

bedtime calmer and more comfortable for Lillie, it also helps her parents with their morning routine.

Unlike the previous bed, this one is made from material that can be washed down, meaning Lillie's parents can clean up quickly and easily in the morning if there has been any mess during the night. This has made a difference beyond expectations as they can ensure complete cleanliness of the bed and Lillie's surroundings without having to take large parts of the old bed apart. This was a great strain when coupled with the continual and constant tasks that have to be carried out for Lillie during the day, which can be overwhelming at times.

Lillie's mother Gemma said, "It has impacted in the most amazing way in that it's taken that element of stress away from us as a family because there's so many things we have to do with Lillie in a morning to get her ready for school and to ensure she is ready for when her transport arrives to take her to school. It means that it's just taken a level of anxiety away from us when we already have quite a stressful life.

"So I would say it has massively helped. I would say it's helped like 85% really. The other percent is stuff that we can't control: how she is and the things that she does and the way this impacts on our every day, but the bed has just helped us so much. Lillie seems happier in it as well: she is visibly happier in it. When we go into her room in the morning, she's always full of smiles and happy.

"It goes without saying how immensely grateful we are to the charity for helping us get this because we really wouldn't have been able to ourselves. The expenses of raising a disabled child are huge and we have to have many things and make subsequent adaptations to make all elements of our home safe for our child. So the fact that we were able to get this bed and the help we received was incredible really, so we just want to say a massive thank you to anyone that has assisted in us getting it.

"People do not realise, but it's people like you and charities that really do make such a difference. It is incredible."

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Wheelchair grants

In 2022 Variety provided 52 wheelchair grants at an average of £5,243 each, totalling £272,622.

The right wheelchair can offer independence to a child or young person, giving them the freedom to explore their environment in their own way, get around at school, keep up with their friends and take part in social activities, sports and hobbies.

We know that a wheelchair has to be appropriate for each child's needs and environment, however, and this is why we part and fully fund a range of different manual, powered and sports wheelchairs according to the individual's age, medical condition and lifestyle.

In 2022 Variety provided:

- 17 sports wheelchairs
- 10 powered wheelchairs
- 6 all terrain wheelchairs
- 18 manual wheelchairs
- 1 standing wheelchair

Leyton's story

9-year-old Leyton loves playing in his Boccia team, playing football, PlayStation, and going to the shops. He has Spinal Muscular Atrophy, which means he is fully reliant on a wheelchair for mobility.

With a new powered wheelchair from Variety, Leyton is gaining independence and discovering new places with his family.

About 1 in every 10,000 babies are born carrying the genes for Spinal Muscular Atrophy unknowingly. When both parents carry the gene, it is possible for them to pass it to their baby.

The condition causes weakened muscles, meaning that Leyton does not have the strength to stand unassisted. He was first diagnosed at 17-months and his parents were told that he may not live to see his second birthday. As there is currently no treatment on the NHS to help him, they were told he would become progressively weaker and his lungs, breathing, and swallowing would be affected.

After three years of fighting, Leyton's parents managed to get him on a trial in Paris that would give him medication to help motor neurones in his body multiply and give him more of a fighting chance. Now nearly 10-years-old, Leyton has defied the odds. He still has his medication and he and his parents hope he will maintain his strength. With his fighting spirit, he continues to surpass expectations!

Thankfully, Variety was able to fund an off-road wheelchair for Leyton and he's now gaining the independence he's been craving.

Leyton's mum, Tammy, said:

"As soon as Leyton had a demo in this chair, he fell in love with it. It gives him the freedom to play on the beach with no restrictions and without having to be pushed around.

"We recently took this chair to Disney World with us and it became his main chair for two weeks. It was brilliant for the different paths we had to walk, and also gave us the option to push Leyton as he was becoming tired, which was a blessing as Disney came with really long days!

"It's given Leyton more independence, more freedom to tackle any paths, and it's made his life easier when playing football with his friends because he's got big wheels to stop the ball. It's made everyday life more inclusive for him.

"Technology and medicine are advancing all the time. If we didn't fight for what Leyton needed, we have no idea what situation we would be in right now."

Leyton himself is ready to tackle whatever life throws at him, saying:

"I may have SMA, but SMA doesn't have me!"

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Variety Great Days Out

In 2022 Variety took 5,726 children on Great Days Out, at a cost of £236,000.

Over 5,500 children, along with their parents and carers, were given tickets from Variety to enjoy a Great Day Out at West Midlands Safari Park.

The children enjoyed meeting the animals up close, getting the chance to go through the safari drive-through, visit the red panda retreat, walk through the African village, go through lorikeet landing, visit the land of the living dinosaurs, and much more. There were plenty of animals to meet, including rhinos, lions, and giraffes, as well as rides to make the day even more enjoyable.

Parents and carers enjoyed an incredible day out with their children, taking the opportunity to bond and create precious memories.

Louise, a very proud mom to two wonderful boys, who both have complex neurodevelopmental needs said "It has been as very long time since we were able to go out as a family as days out are often difficult and expensive. We often need to leave within a short space of time as our children become very dysregulated and overwhelmed".

"When these tickets were offered to us, we were so excited! It has been a difficult few months and this was an opportunity to have some family fun, even if we could only stay for a short time. As it happened, our boys had the BEST time! We had so much fun and shared enjoyment and created so many memories.

"Days out like this would not have been possible without your generosity. We made sure we made the most of all the experiences and we took our time to explore.

"Thank you SO much for providing us with such a wonderful day."

Variety Sunshine Coaches

In 2022 Variety supplied 51 Sunshine Coaches at a cost of £2,017,798.

Variety's famous Sunshine Coaches are specially adapted, accessible minibuses that cater for SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) schools and other non-profit organisations working with disabled and disadvantaged children and young people.

Our coaches give youngsters the opportunity to explore places they would otherwise never visit, experience different learning environments and gain life skills outside the classroom - all while supporting their physical, social and language development.

Having their own coach enables schools and organisations to plan recreational or educational trips with less hassle and more confidence, knowing pupils will be travelling in safety and comfort.

Moorfield Community Primary School's story

The Sunshine Coach sponsored by Legends of Industry Awards 2021 donations was presented to Moorfield Community Primary School, who have a high percentage of pupils with special educational needs and disadvantaged children.

David Nightingale, Head teacher at Moorfield Community Primary School, said, "For our children here, they're very lucky to live in an area surrounded by lots of fantastic places to visit. Lots of them are free but the biggest barrier is always transport and how to get there, mainly because of the cost.

"This bus means that that barrier has been removed and our children can explore everything that our fantastic area has to offer, and means that they can continue their learning, not just in the classroom. So thank you to everyone at the Legends of Industry Awards for this coach."

The new Variety Sunshine Coach will be used to give pupils opportunities they do not usually get at home, and that would not be possible without their new bus. The children will experience outings to supermarkets, cafes, and other specialist provisions that will support their social skills, experiences, and confidence.

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Catherine Mitchell, Deputy Head teacher at Moorfield Community Primary School also added, "A massive, massive thank you to you all. I'm going to be driving this beautiful bus and it is going to open many doors for us as a school. We've got a high proportion of children at the school with special educational needs and it's going to really raise the opportunities that we can present to all the children. Thank you so much to you all. Thank you to the Legends of Industry Awards. Thank you."

Fundraising Activities

Variety typically does not receive government or statutory funding/contracts and is therefore greatly dependent on voluntary funds from our varied supporters. We adopt an ethical and transparent approach to our fundraising, and we are a proud member of the Fundraising Regulatory Scheme and the Institute of Fundraising and adhere to all their relevant standards. We did not use the services of professional fundraisers in 2022, nor did we carry out any 'face to face' fundraising in the year.

During the 2022 financial year we did not receive any complaints regarding our fundraising activities, but in the event of receiving any complaints of this nature, we follow a strict complaints procedure.

Notable donations and funding

Variety raises funds through a range of activities but principally through corporate and individual donations, fundraising events, wills and legacies, trusts, foundations and community fundraising including challenge events. To name a few of our most significant donations this year:

- Variety Golf raised nearly £800,000 for our Sunshine Coach programme.
- Michael Josephson MBE Charity Ball raised over £320,000
- We received over £228,000 from trusts and foundations including donations from The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation £62,000, St James' Place Charitable Foundation £41,750, The Geoff and Fiona Squire Foundation £33,950, The Elizabeth and Prince Zaiger Trust £26,500, The Bluston Charitable Settlement £25,000, The Masonic Charitable Foundation £24,000 and The Barbour Foundation £20,000.

- Our Patrons programme raised £47,500 - we are very grateful to Michael Josephson MBE, Chair and his Vice Chair Andrew Geddes.
- We received over £91,000 from Mountpark to support our work.
- We received over £47,000 from corporate sponsor ACI to support our work.
- Crest Nicholson donated nearly £34,000 to support our equipment grants.

Variety's fundraising events are carried out through the charities wholly owned subsidiary company, Variety Events Limited. The company's net profit is donated to Variety, the Children's Charity. The fundraising events which raised over £50,000 were:

- Variety Club Showbusiness Awards raised nearly £0.5M
- PROPS Awards lunch raised over £330,000
- Legends of Industry Awards raised nearly £110,000
- Gastronomic Evening raised over £70,000
- Variety Rocks raised nearly £65,000

Financial review

The financial statements cover the activities of Variety, the Children's Charity, and its trading subsidiary, Variety Events Limited, for the year ended 31 December 2022. The results are set out on page 18.

A summary of the results of the subsidiary is set out in note 2 to the financial statements.

Incoming resources increased by 46% to £5,377,560 over the previous year (2021: £3,687,815). Of this, £1,166,175 was generated through the trading subsidiary (2021: 945,531). Donations received totalled £3,798,362 (2021: £2,356,955) and legacy income was £100,908 (2021: £59,163). Donated goods and services income was £193,590 (2021: £234,098), which relates to Variety Great Days Out gift-in-kind value placed on donated outings and small gifts given for children under this programme.

During the year expenditure on charitable activities, including overheads was £3,013,659 (2021: £2,192,867) of which £2,152,754 (2021: £1,343,453) was applied for the purchase of Sunshine Coaches, £333,614 (2021: £274,940) for electric wheelchairs and £291,291 (2021: £297,829) for grants to individuals (principally for the purchase of specialist care or sensory play adaptive equipment), children's hospitals, and other organisations to help children who are disabled or living with financial disadvantage. £236,000 (2021: £276,645) was applied to Variety Great Days Out activities.

Variety, the Children's Charity

Annual Report and Accounts 2022

certain necessary investments were also made during this period to improve productivity. We carried out repairs and refurbishment to our premises and also replaced our CRM and Finance systems in order to enhance our efficiency and effectiveness.

Financial position and reserves policy

Variety's charitable giving commitments are conditional upon the raising of specific funds.

The surplus in the year of £473,861 (2021: surplus £28,391) before loss on investments comprised a surplus on unrestricted funds of £154,729 (2021: surplus £332,184 before gain on investments) and surplus on restricted funds of £319,132 (2021: deficit £303,793).

Like all charitable organisations, Variety must retain unrestricted free reserves to allow the charity to meet its ongoing commitments and bridge any unforeseen gaps between the spending and receiving of income. The Trustees had set a target for unrestricted free reserves of between four and six months' forecast operating and administration costs by the end of 2023, currently circa £700,000 to £1,000,000. Unrestricted reserves are monitored quarterly by the Trustees.

At the end of the year, unrestricted funds were £3,222,617, of which fixed assets, net of the mortgage secured on our head office, represented £1,870,748. Thus, unrestricted free reserves at 31 December 2022 amounted to £1,351,869 which is more than the charity's target for 2022. The trustees consider this level of unrestricted free reserves to be reasonable given the very uncertain economic environment.

Restricted reserves increased from £642,259 at 2021 year-end to £961,391 at 2022 year-end as a result of significant fundraising activity taking place in the final quarter of the year, most notably the Variety Club Showbusiness Awards which raised significant restricted funds for the Sunshine Coach programme.

The total funds of the charity as of 31 December 2022 were £4,184,008 including cash of £2,139,184, which has increased by £114,611 over the year.

Investment policy

The charity's primary investment objective is to maintain the value of its investments. Since 1998 the charity has owned the freehold interest in a commercial office building from which its head office operates and of which 35.51 per cent is sublet. The estimated value of the sublet property as at 31 December 2022, based upon a valuation by Robert Irving Burns Property Consultants, is £1,605,000. All income arising from it is unrestricted income. In addition, certain office car parking spaces that form part of the curtilage of the freehold office building are rented out on a short-term basis.

The charity's commercial activities are undertaken by its wholly owned subsidiary, Variety Events Limited with all profits donated under Gift Aid to the charity.

Principal risks and uncertainties

There are a number of risks and uncertainties that can impact on the performance of the charity, some of which are beyond the control of Trustees. The Audit, Finance and Risk Committee meets and assesses the major risks to which Variety is exposed.

As a result of the war in Ukraine, higher interest and inflation rates, the economic environment continues to remain very uncertain.

Key risks identified were as follows:

- The level of income could fall significantly, whether from donations or trading subsidiary activities as a result of increased economic pressures
- The level of unrestricted income could fall making it difficult for the Charity to meet its ongoing expenditure.
- Successful recruitment and retention of key staff given the extraordinarily difficult recruiting environment which followed from Brexit and the pandemic.
- Increased costs and lead times for Sunshine Coaches as a result of growing complexities in the vehicle industry supply chain and harsher economic conditions.

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Variety mitigates these risks in a number of ways:

- Continued focus on its fundraising activities, keeping in close contact with its donors and sponsors and working on a range of events.
- In the event of a considerable drop in income whether from donations or trading subsidiary activities, the total of grants committed would be reduced and we would prioritise individual grants. Since grants are paid once the money becomes available, there is limited risk of financial exposure to the charity.
- Operating effective and extensive financial management which includes: an annual planning and budgeting system with an annual budget approved by the Trustees; reforecasting, at a minimum, quarterly and all significant budget variations being subject to Trustee approval.
- Holding a prudent level of unrestricted free reserves given the economic uncertainty
- Working closely with donors, schools and (existing and alternative) vehicle suppliers to smooth out unforeseen delivery slippages and mitigate price rises for our Sunshine Coach programme.
- Ongoing investment in our people and culture.

Going concern

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected cashflows and income and expenditure for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least a year from the date the accounts are signed. The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will be able to continue in business and meet its liabilities as they fall due. The accounts have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

Plans for the future

We look to the future with confidence and optimism having taken the necessary steps to address the financial and operational challenges we faced as a result of the pandemic.

In 2023 our aim continues to be on delivering sustainable growth, both

financially and in terms of our support for children and young people. Our plans include the following areas:

Events

Following on from the success of our 2022 events we are continuing to work on our regular range of events as well as reinstating the Variety Club Disability Sports Awards (last held in 2009). In keeping with changing times and the purpose of Variety, these Awards will now be entirely focused on disability sports, thereby creating the first annual national event in the UK that celebrates the achievements of disabled sportspeople exclusively.

Corporate partners

We will be extending our corporate partnership programmes, both in terms of numbers of partners as well as the services offered. Our aim is to focus on corporate partnerships, in which all the benefits of supporting Variety are tied together in a single offering.

Digital Strategy

We plan to use digital media, in conjunction with our new CRM system, to engage current and prospective donors more efficiently and effectively. Over the years, Variety has helped to improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and their families and our digital marketing will also be targeted to build our beneficiary and volunteer networks as well.

Auditors

Saffery LLP have expressed their willingness to remain in office as auditors of the company.

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Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Variety, the Children's Charity, for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law 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 charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group 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 (FRS 102);
- 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 charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

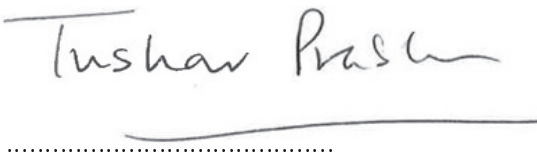
In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, relating to small companies.

This report of the Trustees was approved by the Board of Trustees and signed as authorised on its behalf on 27th October 2023 by:



Tushar Prabhu
Trustee

27th October 2023

Date

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Independent auditor's report to the Trustees and members

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Variety, the Children's Charity (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the group and the parent charitable company as at 31 December 2022 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the

ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to

Annual Report and Accounts 2022

determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 13, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the group and parent financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are

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considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities:

We assessed the susceptibility of the group and parent charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company by discussions with trustees, and updating our understanding of the sector in which the group and parent charitable company operate.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company include the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

Audit response to risks identified:

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items including a review of financial statement disclosures. We

reviewed the parent charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the parent charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

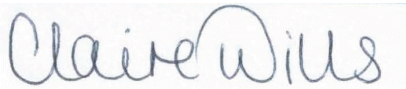
There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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Use of our report

This report is made solely to the parent charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the parent charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the parent charitable company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the parent charitable company, the parent charitable company's members and trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



.....
 Claire Wills (Senior Statutory Auditor)
 for and on behalf of Saffery LLP

Chartered Accountants
 Statutory Auditors

71 Queen Victoria Street
 London
 EC4V 4BE

Date: ...27.October.2023.....

Saffery LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Variety, the Children's Charity

Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and expenditure							
Income from:							
Donations and legacies							
	Donations, including tax credits	1,021,599	2,776,763	3,798,362	902,511	1,454,444	2,356,955
	Legacies and bequests	86,408	14,500	100,908	59,163	-	59,163
3	Donated goods and services	-	193,590	193,590	-	234,098	234,098
Other trading activities							
2	Turnover of trading subsidiary	1,166,175	-	1,166,175	945,531	-	945,531
Investments							
	Rental income	118,464	-	118,464	92,065	-	92,065
	Investment income and bank interest	61	-	61	3	-	3
Total	2,392,707	2,984,853	5,377,560	1,999,273	1,688,542	3,687,815	
5 Expenditure on:							
5	Raising funds	1,890,040	-	1,890,040	1,347,850	118,707	1,466,557
		1,890,040	-	1,890,040	1,347,850	118,707	1,466,557
5 Charitable activities							
	Sunshine Coaches	76,947	2,075,807	2,152,754	3,045	1,340,408	1,343,453
	Wheelchairs	108,523	225,091	333,614	122,584	152,356	274,940
	Equipment Grants	142,666	148,625	291,291	171,685	126,144	297,829
	Variety Great Days Out	19,802	216,198	236,000	21,925	254,720	276,645
		347,938	2,665,721	3,013,659	319,239	1,873,628	2,192,867
Total	2,237,978	2,665,721	4,903,699	1,667,089	1,992,335	3,659,424	
	Net income/ (expenditure) before (loss)/gain on investments	154,729	319,132	473,861	332,184	(303,793)	28,391
9	Net (loss)/ gain on investments	(80,000)	-	(80,000)	65,000	-	65,000
	Net income/ (expenditure) and net movement in funds	74,729	319,132	393,861	397,184	(303,793)	93,391
Reconciliation of funds							
	Total funds brought forward	3,147,888	642,259	3,790,147	2,750,704	946,052	3,696,756
14	Total funds carried forward	3,222,617	961,391	4,184,008	3,147,888	642,259	3,790,147

All amounts relate to continuing activities.

All recognised gains and losses are included in the consolidated statement of financial activities.

The notes on pages 22 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

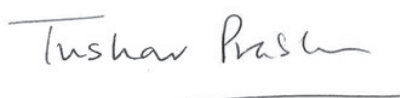
Notes	2022	2021
	£	£
Fixed assets		
8 Tangible assets	1,664,432	1,651,808
9 Investments	<u>1,605,000</u>	<u>1,685,000</u>
	3,269,432	3,336,808
Current assets		
10 Debtors	518,438	383,459
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>2,139,184</u>	<u>2,024,573</u>
	2,657,622	2,408,032
11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>445,443</u>	<u>556,010</u>
Net current assets	<u>2,212,179</u>	<u>1,852,022</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	5,481,611	5,188,830
12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	1,297,603	1,398,683
Total net assets	<u>4,184,008</u>	<u>3,790,147</u>
The funds of the group:		
13 Restricted funds	961,391	642,259
13 Unrestricted funds	<u>3,222,617</u>	<u>3,147,888</u>
Total group funds	<u>4,184,008</u>	<u>3,790,147</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The parent charity has taken advantage of the legal dispensation not to present its own income and expenditure account as permitted under Section 408(3) of the Companies Act 2006. The charity's net income for the year was £393,861 (2021: net income of £93,391)

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed as authorised on its behalf on 27th October 2023 by:

Trustees



Tushar Prabhu



Prof. Jonathan Shalit OBE

The notes on pages 22 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

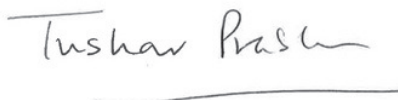
Company number 509811

Notes	2022	2021
	£	£
Fixed assets		
8 Tangible assets	1,664,432	1,651,808
9 Investments	<u>1,605,100</u>	<u>1,685,100</u>
	3,269,532	3,336,908
Current assets		
10 Debtors	1,515,084	1,189,787
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>1,090,385</u>	<u>1,127,860</u>
	2,605,469	2,317,647
11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>393,390</u>	<u>465,725</u>
Net current assets	2,212,079	1,851,922
Total assets less current liabilities	5,481,611	5,188,830
12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	1,297,603	1,398,683
Total net assets	4,184,008	3,790,147
The funds of the charity:		
13 Restricted funds	961,391	642,259
13 Unrestricted funds	<u>3,222,617</u>	<u>3,147,888</u>
Total charity funds	4,184,008	3,790,147

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed as authorised on its behalf on 27th October 2023 by:

Trustees



Tushar Prabhu



Prof. Jonathan Shalit OBE

The notes on pages 22 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

Company number 509811

Notes	2022	2021
	£	£
20 Net cash used in operating activities	212,977	3,924
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	118,525	92,068
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(51,455)	(5,652)
Net cash provided by investing activities	67,070	86,416
Cash flow from financing activities:		
Repayments of borrowing	(98,361)	(70,785)
Interest paid	(67,075)	(59,582)
Cash inflows from new borrowings	-	343,465
Net cash provided by investing activities	(165,436)	213,098
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	114,611	303,438
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	2,024,573	1,721,135
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	2,139,184	2,024,573

Analysis of changes in net debt

2022	At start of year	Cash-flows	Transfers	At end of year
	£	£	£	£
Cash	2,024,573	114,611	-	2,139,184
Loans falling due within one year	(98,361)	98,361	(101,081)	(101,081)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(1,398,683)	-	101,081	(1,297,603)
Total	527,529	212,972	-	740,500

The notes on pages 22 to 32 form part of these financial statements.

1 Accounting Policies

- 1.1 The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, subject to the revaluation of freehold and investment property. The financial statements are prepared in compliance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102), the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic Ireland.

Variety, the Children's Charity (Variety) is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales, registered address Variety House, 93 Bayham Street, London NW1 0AG.

Variety meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Monetary amounts are presented in pound sterling as that is the functional currency of the Charity. Figures are rounded to the nearest £.

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected cashflows and income and expenditure for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least a year from the date the accounts are signed. The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will be able to continue in business and meet its liabilities as they fall due. The accounts have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

1.2 Income and expenditure

All incoming resources, including legacies and governments grants, are recognised as income when Variety is entitled to the income, that it is probable the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis and includes irrecoverable VAT. Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Grants payable are charged in the year where the offer is conveyed to the recipient except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions are no longer seen to be within the control of the Trustees. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

- 1.3 Donated goods and services are included in the financial statements at a valuation which is an estimate of the market value of the services provided, where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the committee members and other volunteers is not recognised. However, the Trustees' annual report provides more information about their contribution.

- 1.4 Expenditure on raising funds are those costs which are incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

- 1.5 Charitable activities include grants and donations applied for the purchase of Sunshine Coaches and electric wheelchairs, grants for the benefit of individuals, hospitals and other organisations to help sick and disabled children. These include both the direct costs and support costs relating to the various activities.

- 1.6 Support costs relate to costs of central activities. These are allocated to activities in proportion to staff time on the relevant activity.

- 1.7 Governance costs, which are included in support costs include those incurred in the governance of the Charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.8 Basis of consolidation

The consolidated accounts incorporate the financial statements of Variety, the Children's Charity (Variety) and its subsidiary undertaking, Variety Events Limited (Events), consolidated on a line by line basis.

1.9 Restricted funds

Where a donor has specified a particular purpose for a donation, all transactions have been reflected within restricted funds. Movements in these funds are detailed in note 14 to the financial statements.

1.10 Depreciation

Variety took the option under FRS 102 to treat the previous valuation of the freehold land and property as deemed cost. Other tangible assets are carried at historical cost. Depreciation is provided to write off the cost, less estimated residual values, of all fixed assets over their expected useful lives. It is calculated on the original cost (or valuation) of the assets at the following rates:

Office equipment	-	20% to 33% per annum
Freehold building	-	2% per annum

There is no set limit below which fixed assets are not capitalised.

1.11 Pension costs

Contributions to Variety's money purchase group personal pension plan are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the accounting period in which they are payable.

1.12 Investment property

Investment property, which is property held to earn rent and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at deemed cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.13 Financial instruments

Variety only has financial instruments and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments, including trade and other debtors, and cash and bank balances, are initially recognised at the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less impairment.

Financial assets are derecognised when (a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or (b) substantially all the risks and rewards of the ownership of the asset are transferred to another party.

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other creditors, and loans from third parties are initially recognised at the transaction price. Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods and services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Trade creditors are initially recognised at the transaction price and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Debt instruments include bank loans and mortgages. These are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.14 Critical accounting 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 period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The financial statements include the following key estimates:

The freehold property comprises three floors, two of which are occupied by Variety and the third floor is let at a commercial rent. The third floor investment property was revalued as at 31 December 2022 at £1.605m on 10 March 2023 by Robert Irving Burns Limited, 29-30 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 6LQ. The market value is based on the long leasehold interest, with the existing tenancy.

The Charity estimates the value of intangible income using publicly available price lists, or through direct confirmation with the suppliers of the amount that would have been charged had the gift or donated service been invoiced.

2 Net income from trading activities of subsidiary

The principal activity of the subsidiary, Variety Events Limited (company no. 02280720), is the organisation and promotion of fund-raising activities and the sale of merchandise on behalf of Variety. A summary of the results is set out below. Audited accounts are filed with the Registrar of Companies.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Profit and loss account		
Turnover	1,166,175	945,531
Cost of sales	688,476	427,554
Gross profit	477,699	517,977
Fundraising and publicity	268,170	179,233
Management and administration (payable to the Charity)	15,000	9,200
Net profit	194,529	329,544
Gift aid donation to Charity	194,529	329,544
Retained profit	-	-

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:

Assets	1,162,243	1,001,172
Liabilities	(1,162,143)	(1,001,072)
Funds (representing 100 ordinary shares of £1 each)	100	100

3 Donated goods and services

	2022	2021
	£	£
Intangible Income - Gift in Kind	193,590	234,098
	193,590	234,098

Total expenditure includes £193,590 (2021: £234,098) an equivalent amount being described as Intangible Income (Gift in Kind) in the Statement of Financial Activities. This amount is in respect of Variety Great Days Out activities.

4 Employees

	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	678,074	709,893
Social security costs	74,234	64,031
Other pension costs	37,606	51,097
	789,914	825,021

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
Fundraising	4	8
Events	6	4
Sunshine Coaches	1	1
Wheelchairs	1	1
Grants	2	2
Support	4	6
	18	22

Included in the above is a termination payment of nil (2021: £8,704)

The number of employees whose total remuneration (excluding pension) exceeded £60,000 was as follows:

	Number 2022	Number 2021
£70,000 to £79,999	1	1

The key management personnel of Variety comprises the Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Management Team. The total combined contractual benefits of the key management personnel of Variety was £241,498 (2021: £255,467).

5 Expenditure	Direct staff	Grant costs	Other direct	Support costs	Total
	costs	(Note 17)	costs	(Note 6)	
2022	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising donations and legacies	221,476	-	27,221	326,725	575,422
Cost of sales of trading subsidiary	-	-	686,391	-	686,391
Events support	248,441	-	-	379,786	628,227
	<u>469,917</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>713,612</u>	<u>706,511</u>	<u>1,890,040</u>
Sunshine Coaches	46,362	2,017,798	-	88,594	2,152,754
Wheelchairs	20,226	272,622	-	40,766	333,614
Equipment Grants	46,956	156,251	-	88,084	291,291
Variety Great Days Out	-	236,000	-	-	236,000
	<u>113,544</u>	<u>2,682,671</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>217,444</u>	<u>3,013,659</u>
	<u>583,461</u>	<u>2,682,671</u>	<u>713,612</u>	<u>923,955</u>	<u>4,903,699</u>

2021	Direct staff	Grant costs	Other direct	Support costs	Total
	costs	(Note 17)	costs	(Note 6)	
2021	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising donations and legacies	295,806	-	21,428	354,817	672,051
Cost of sales of trading subsidiary	-	-	418,537	-	418,537
Events support	171,039	-	-	204,930	375,969
	<u>466,845</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>439,965</u>	<u>559,747</u>	<u>1,466,557</u>
Sunshine Coaches	29,158	1,273,873	-	40,422	1,343,453
Wheelchairs	26,970	200,527	-	47,443	274,940
Equipment Grants	48,402	174,874	-	74,553	297,829
Variety Great Days Out	1,465	272,745	-	2,435	276,645
	<u>105,995</u>	<u>1,922,019</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>164,853</u>	<u>2,192,867</u>
	<u>572,840</u>	<u>1,922,019</u>	<u>439,965</u>	<u>724,600</u>	<u>3,659,424</u>

6 Support Costs	Staff	Depreciation	Other	Total
	£	£	£	
2022				
Governance/Legal	25,141	-	134,781	159,922
Finance & Administration	100,326	-	-	100,326
IT & Database	23,911	-	109,402	133,313
Office costs	5,842	-	239,344	245,186
Interest payable	-	-	67,075	67,075
HR/Staff related costs	-	-	71,835	71,835
Media/Publicity	51,231	-	22,489	73,720
Other support costs	-	38,831	33,747	72,578
	<u>206,451</u>	<u>38,831</u>	<u>678,673</u>	<u>923,955</u>

2021	Staff	Depreciation	Other	Total
	£	£	£	
Governance/Legal	59,084	-	113,783	172,867
Finance & Administration	128,985	-	-	128,985
IT & Database	34,905	-	79,742	114,647
Office costs	6,844	-	113,420	120,264
Interest payable	-	-	59,582	59,582
HR/Staff related costs	7,633	-	48,044	55,677
Media/Publicity	14,278	-	2,780	17,058
Other support costs	452	35,836	19,232	55,520
	<u>252,181</u>	<u>35,836</u>	<u>436,583</u>	<u>724,600</u>

7 Net expenditure/ income is stated after charging:	2022	2021
	£	£
Depreciation		
- office equipment	14,647	11,652
- freehold building	24,184	24,184
Auditors' remuneration - audit	35,300	27,300
Auditors' remuneration - taxation and advice services	11,164	2,892
Operating lease expenditure	21,318	21,318

8 Tangible assets	Freehold land and buildings £	Office equipment £	Total £
Group and company			
Cost			
1 January 2022	2,279,182	74,372	2,353,554
Additions	-	51,455	51,455
31 December 2022	<u>2,279,182</u>	<u>125,827</u>	<u>2,405,009</u>
Depreciation			
1 January 2022	638,468	63,278	701,746
Charge for the year	24,184	14,647	38,831
31 December 2022	<u>662,652</u>	<u>77,925</u>	<u>740,577</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2022	<u>1,616,530</u>	<u>47,902</u>	<u>1,664,432</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2021	<u>1,640,714</u>	<u>11,094</u>	<u>1,651,808</u>

9 Fixed asset investments	Notes	Group 2022 £	Company £	Group 2021 £	Company £
Investment in subsidiary	(a)	-	100	-	100
Investment property	(b)	<u>1,605,000</u>	<u>1,605,000</u>	<u>1,685,000</u>	<u>1,685,000</u>
		<u>1,605,000</u>	<u>1,605,100</u>	<u>1,685,000</u>	<u>1,685,100</u>

(a) Variety owns all the issued shares (100 Ordinary shares of £1 each) in Variety Events Limited, a Company which is registered and operates in England (Variety House, 93 Bayham Street, London NW1 0AG) and whose main activity is the organisation and promotion of fund-raising activities and the sale of Gold Hearts and other merchandise on behalf of Variety. These are included in the financial statements at cost. Details of the result for the year and financial position of Variety Events Limited are provided in Note 2 to the financial statements.

(b) The freehold property comprises three floors, two of which are occupied by Variety and the third floor is let at a commercial rent. The third floor investment property was revalued as at 31 December 2022 at £1.605m on 10 March 2023 by Robert Irving Burns Limited, 29-30 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 6LQ. The market value is based on the long leasehold interest, with the existing tenancy.

10 Debtors	Group 2022 £	Company £	Group 2021 £	Company £
Trade debtors	120,981	49,143	96,512	49,667
Amounts due from subsidiary undertaking	-	1,110,089	-	910,786
Other debtors	30,853	22,181	3,803	3,803
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>366,604</u>	<u>333,671</u>	<u>283,144</u>	<u>225,531</u>
	<u>518,438</u>	<u>1,515,084</u>	<u>383,459</u>	<u>1,189,787</u>

All debtors are due within one year.

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2022	Company	Group 2021	Company
	£	£	£	£
Accruals for grants payable	168,082	168,082	211,913	211,913
Mortgage (secured - see note 12)	51,081	51,081	48,361	48,361
Bank loan (see note 12)	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Trade creditors	41,291	34,245	58,994	58,994
Accruals and deferred income	125,608	88,592	161,658	84,873
Other creditors	9,381	1,390	25,084	11,584
	<u>445,443</u>	<u>393,390</u>	<u>556,010</u>	<u>465,725</u>

The movement in creditors for grants and donations is as follow:

	2021	Charge for the year	Payments	2022
	£	£	£	£
Wheelchairs	63,544	274,122	(304,147)	33,519
Sunshine Coaches	82,612	1,998,058	(2,001,601)	79,069
General grants	65,757	153,499	(163,762)	55,494
	<u>211,913</u>	<u>2,425,679</u>	<u>(2,469,510)</u>	<u>168,082</u>
	2020	Charge for the year	Payments	2021
	£	£	£	£
Wheelchairs	19,200	200,101	(155,757)	63,544
Sunshine Coaches	110,466	1,273,873	(1,301,727)	82,612
General grants	54,137	203,934	(192,314)	65,757
	<u>183,803</u>	<u>1,677,908</u>	<u>(1,649,798)</u>	<u>211,913</u>

Deferred income

Deferred income comprises advance ticket sales for various events, London Marathon registration fees and rental income received in advance.

	Group £	Company £
Balance as at 1 January 2022	89,759	26,924
Amount released to income earned	(89,759)	(26,924)
Amount deferred in year	39,201	27,201
Balance as at 31 December 2022	<u>39,201</u>	<u>27,201</u>

	Group £	Company £
Balance as at 1 January 2021	167,215	26,625
Amount released to income earned	(167,215)	(26,625)
Amount deferred in year	89,759	26,924
Balance as at 31 December 2021	<u>89,759</u>	<u>26,924</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

Group and company	2022 £	2021 £
Mortgage (secured)	1,172,603	1,223,683
Bank Loan (Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan)	125,000	175,000
	<u>1,297,603</u>	<u>1,398,683</u>

Mortgage (secured)

The mortgage is secured on Variety's freehold land and building and is repayable over the remaining period of 5 years and 3 months at interest rates of 5.51% and 3.19% per annum as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
In more than one year but not more than two years	53,954	51,081
In more than two years but not more than five years	180,764	171,138
In more than five years	937,885	1,001,464
	<u>1,172,603</u>	<u>1,223,683</u>

The proportion of the loan to the value of the assets charged is:

<u>37%</u>	<u>40%</u>
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12 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (continued)

Bank Loan (Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan)

The Government paid the interest on the loan for the first 12 months to 9th June 2021 (Business Interruption Payment). The bank loan is repayable over the remaining period of 42 months at an interest rate of 2.09% p.a. over Base Rate

	2022 £	2021 £
In more than one year but not more than two years	50,000	50,000
In more than two years but not more than five years	75,000	125,000
	<u>125,000</u>	<u>175,000</u>

13 Analysis of group net assets between funds

	2022 £	2022 £	2022 £
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Fixed assets	3,269,432	-	3,269,432
Current assets	1,528,149	1,129,473	2,657,622
Current liabilities	(277,361)	(168,082)	(445,443)
Long-term liabilities	(1,297,603)	-	(1,297,603)
Total net assets	<u>3,222,617</u>	<u>961,391</u>	<u>4,184,008</u>

	2021 £	2021 £	2021 £
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Fixed assets	3,336,808	-	3,336,808
Current assets	1,553,860	854,172	2,408,032
Current liabilities	(344,097)	(211,913)	(556,010)
Long-term liabilities	(1,398,683)	-	(1,398,683)
Total net assets	<u>3,147,888</u>	<u>642,259</u>	<u>3,790,147</u>

14 Movement on funds

Group and company	2022 Opening Balance £	2022 Income £	2022 Expenditure £	2022 Transfers/ gains and (losses) £	2022 Closing Balance £
Unrestricted funds	<u>3,147,888</u>	<u>2,392,707</u>	<u>(2,237,978)</u>	<u>(80,000)</u>	<u>3,222,617</u>
Restricted funds					
Sunshine Coach Programme incl. Variety Golf	221,843	2,271,036	(2,075,807)	-	417,072
Wheelchair Programme	146,277	323,889	(225,091)	-	245,075
Special Purpose Funds	181,052	389,928	(364,823)	-	206,157
Kings College Hospital	93,087	-	-	-	93,087
	<u>642,259</u>	<u>2,984,853</u>	<u>(2,665,721)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>961,391</u>
Total funds	<u>3,790,147</u>	<u>5,377,560</u>	<u>(4,903,699)</u>	<u>(80,000)</u>	<u>4,184,008</u>

The loss of £80,000 for the year ended 31 December 2022 reflects the loss on revaluation of the investment property.

	2021 Opening Balance £	2021 Income £	2021 Expenditure £	2021 Transfers/ gains and (losses) £	2021 Closing Balance £
Unrestricted funds	<u>2,750,704</u>	<u>1,999,273</u>	<u>(1,667,089)</u>	<u>65,000</u>	<u>3,147,888</u>
Restricted funds					
Sunshine Coach Programme	527,167	1,035,084	(1,340,408)	-	221,843
Wheelchair Programme	66,035	206,655	(126,413)	-	146,277
Special Purpose Funds	259,763	348,096	(426,807)	-	181,052
Kings College Hospital	93,087	-	-	-	93,087
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	98,707	(98,707)	-	-
	<u>946,052</u>	<u>1,688,542</u>	<u>(1,992,335)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>642,259</u>
Total funds	<u>3,696,756</u>	<u>3,687,815</u>	<u>(3,659,424)</u>	<u>65,000</u>	<u>3,790,147</u>

The gain of £65,000 for the year ended 31 December 2021 reflects the gain on revaluation of the investment property.

14 Movement on funds (continued)

Sunshine Coaches Programme

The fund comprises monies raised to provide Sunshine Coaches, excluding funds raised by Variety Golf or contributions from Variety's Special Purpose Funds. Sunshine Coaches are presented to schools, hospitals, children's homes and other such organisations throughout the UK.

Wheelchair Programme

The Wheelchair Programme Committee raises funds to deal with the heavy demand for indoor/outdoor electric wheelchairs and sports/lightweight wheelchairs which are not currently provided by the NHS.

Special Purpose Funds

Variety works closely with donors to help them raise funds and to match those funds to suitable projects. Special Purpose Funds reflect funds raised to help sick, disabled and disadvantaged children and young people who have not yet been matched to specific projects.

Kings College Hospital

Funds raised to contribute to the building of a new wing at the Variety Children's Hospital at Kings.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

HMRC scheme in which Variety was able to claim for 80% of employee's wages, employers NI and pension contributions for staff put on furlough or flexible furlough because of coronavirus.

15 Taxation status

Variety is a registered charity and is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable income, provided this is spent on charitable purposes.

The subsidiary undertaking's profits are donated to Variety under Gift Aid through a deed of covenant. Accordingly there is no provision for taxation on its profit for the year.

16 Members' liability

As Variety is limited by guarantee, there is no share capital. At 31 December 2022, there were 13 members (2021 - 12), each of whom have undertaken to contribute to the assets in the event of Variety being wound up, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £1.

17 Grants and donations

2022	Individuals		Institutions		Total	
	£	No	£	No	£	No
Equipment Grants	148,751	80	7,500	1	156,251	81
Sunshine Coaches	-	-	2,017,798	51	2,017,798	51
Wheelchairs	272,622	52	-	-	272,622	52
Variety Great Days Out	236,000	5,726	-	-	236,000	5,726
	<u>657,373</u>	<u>5,858</u>	<u>2,025,298</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>2,682,671</u>	<u>5,910</u>

Analysis of grants £5,000 and over made to institutions:

	£
Childrens Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS), Edinburgh	92,958
Beaucroft Foundation School, Wimborne	70,024
Willaston Farm, Merseyside	49,569
Trafford Alternative Education Provision, Altrincham	46,831
Slated Row School, Milton Keynes	46,831
Walton Leigh School, Walton on Thames	46,831
Kisharon Noe School, London	46,831
Perrymount School, London	46,831
Summerdown School, Eastbourne	46,831
Watergate School, London	46,831
Addington School, Reading	46,831
Newfriars College, Stoke on Trent	46,831
Green Lane Community Special School, Warrington	46,831
Ynysowen Primary School, Methyr	46,831
Ysgol Penmaes, Brecon	46,831
Oakfield Park School, Pontefract	46,831
Durham Trinity School & Sports College, Durham	44,505
Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, Barnet	44,505
Oak Lodge School, London	44,205
Foxwood Special School, Nottingham	43,567
The Log Cabin, London	41,823
The Livity School, London	41,823
Broadfield Special School, Accrington	41,823
Abercorn Secondary School, Glasgow	41,823
The Harbour School, Portsmouth	41,823
Meadow High School, Uxbridge	41,823
Balance carried forward	<u>1,249,074</u>

17 Grants and donations (continued)

	£
Balance brought forward	1,249,080
Greenhill School, Cardiff	37,694
Allens Croft Primary School, Birmingham	35,012
Baraka Community Association, London	35,012
West Heath School, Kent	35,012
Highfields College, Stockport	35,012
Dorchester Learning Centre, Dorchester	35,012
St Aloysius Primary Federation, Tyne & Wear	35,012
Benton Dene School, Newcastle upon Tyne	35,012
Bethany Junior School, Bournemouth	35,012
Kettlebrook Short Stay School, Staffordshire	32,338
Greenfields Academy, Grantham	32,338
Woodlands Academy, Peterborough	32,338
Queens Park Primary School, London	32,338
Summerdown School, Eastbourne	32,338
Riverside School, London	32,338
Jigsaw Trust, Cranleigh	32,338
Grange Park Primary School, Kent	32,338
St John Vianney School, Manchester	32,338
Moorfield Community Primary School, Salford	32,338
The Forest School, Knaresborough	32,338
The Trinity School, Essex	32,238
Richmond Park Academy, London	32,238
Bramingham Primary School, Bedfordshire	30,740
Alder Tree Primary Academy, Leeds	7,500
Donations under £5,000	-
	<u>2,025,298</u>

2021	Individuals		Institutions		Total	
	£	No	£	No	£	No
Equipment Grants	129,030	65	45,844	1	174,874	66
Sunshine Coaches	-	-	1,273,873	39	1,273,873	39
Wheelchairs	200,527	40	-	-	200,527	40
Variety Great Days Out	272,745	10,533	-	-	272,745	10,533
	<u>602,302</u>	<u>10,638</u>	<u>1,319,717</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>1,922,019</u>	<u>10,678</u>

Analysis of grants £5,000 and over made to institutions:

	£
Green Meadows School, Leeds	45,402
Mapledown School, Cricklewood	43,056
Ade Adepitan Short Break Centre, London	42,086
Meadowgate School, Wisbech	41,306
Woodlands School (Surrey CC), Leatherhead	41,306
Meadows School, Oldbury	41,306
Ysgol Pen-y-Bryn, Morriston	41,306
All Saints CE (Aided) Primary School and Nurse, Wokingham	41,306
Sherwood Park School, Carshalton	41,306
Clifton Hill School, Chaterham	41,306
St Cenydd Community School, Caerphilly	41,306
Pens Meadow School, Stourbridge	41,306
Hazelbeck School, Bingley	41,306
The Westminster School, Rowley Regis	41,306
Green Fold Special School, Bolton	41,306
Twydall Primary School, Kent	36,651
Foxwood Special School, Nottingham	36,651
Pond Meadow School, Guildford	36,651
West Road Primary, Doncaster	30,740
The Shine Centre, Braunstone Town	30,740
Drumbeat School & ASD Service, Bromley	30,740
Cranbrook Primary School, Ilford	30,740
Icknield Primary School, Luton	30,740
Making Communities Work, London	30,740
St Luke's School, Redbourn, Hertfordshire	30,740
Belmont Park School, Leyton	30,740
The Jeanne Saunders Centre, Hove	28,438
Foxfield Academy, Blaby	28,438
Addey and Stanhope School, London	28,438
The Pines School, Birmingham	28,438
Balance carried forward	<u>1,050,439</u>

17 Grants and donations (continued)	£
Balance brought forward	1,050,439
Maes Ebbw Special School, Maesglas	24,806
Garston Manor School, Watford	24,506
Greenvale School, London	24,506
Chailey Heritage School, Nr. Lewes	24,506
Five Acre School, Kent	24,506
Thisle Wing Kinnaird School, Larbet	23,651
Manor Green College, Crawley	21,601
St Peters CE Primary School, Leeds	19,940
The Gesher Trust (Gesher School), Pinner	18,190
Muntham House School, Horsham	16,638
Donations under £5,000	1,026
	<u>1,319,717</u>

18 Commitments

As at 31 December 2022, Variety had approved in principle, applications requesting to supply Sunshine Coaches totalling £119,115 (2021: £265,433). The grants are conditional upon specific funding being raised to finance the cost of the coaches. The specific funding for these coaches had not been confirmed at the year end.

19 Pensions

Variety operates a money purchase group personal pension plan. There are a number of individual pension plans to which Variety contributes.

20 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period	393,861	93,391
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	38,831	35,836
Losses/ (gains) on investments	80,000	(65,000)
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	(118,525)	(92,068)
Interest paid	67,075	59,582
(Increase)/ decrease in debtors	(134,979)	24,777
(Decrease) in creditors	(113,286)	(52,594)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>212,977</u>	<u>3,924</u>

21 Operating lessor commitments

At 31 December 2022, the group was entitled to receive future payments from non-cancellable operating leases of £73,500 (2021 - £156,500) as set out below.

	Rental income	
	2022 £	2021 £
Receipts due in:		
Less than 1 year	73,500	83,000
Between 1 and 2 years	-	73,500
	<u>73,500</u>	<u>156,500</u>

22 Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2022, the group had future lease payments of £11,112 (2021 - £27,534) payable under non-cancellable operating leases as set out below.

	Office Equipment	
	2022 £	2021 £
Payments due in:		
Less than 1 year	10,463	16,422
Between 1 and 2 years	649	10,463
Between 3 and 5 years	-	649
	<u>11,112</u>	<u>27,534</u>

23 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

None of the Trustees received either remuneration or reimbursed expenditure during this financial year or the last financial year.

The total amount of donations received from the Trustees or their companies during the year was £19,962 (2021: £1,243). Trustees also supported the Charity's fundraising events. The total amount received from Trustees or their companies during the year from tickets and other purchases in support of the Charity's fundraising events was £29,255 (2021: £2,540).

We would like to express our thanks to all the volunteers including the team at Intertalent who worked on the preparation for the Variety Club Showbusiness Awards and at the event itself, playing an important role in making this event such a success. We are grateful to our Chairman, Professor Jonathan Shalit OBE (who is a 75% shareholder in Intertalent), for the donation he made of £5,750 in February 2023, part of which meant the Intertalent staff who attended the event to help out on the night were able to do so at no cost to the Charity.

During the year, as permitted and subject to strict protocols, the Group entered into the following arrangements in which the following Trustees had an interest:

Solicitor fees £1,877 (2021: nil) payable to Statham Gill Davies, a company of which Ms Talya Shalson (appointed as a director 27 February 2023) is a partner.

Legal fees nil (2021: £3,000) payable to Howard Kennedy LLP, a firm of which Mr Jason Lewis is a consultant.

At the year end the following were owed to Variety for the purchase of tickets to a fundraising event.

Palace Capital Plc nil (2021: £390) Mr Neil Sinclair is a shareholder of this company.

Mr Jason Lewis £375 (2021: nil)

Vetiver Properties Ltd £3,500 (2021: nil) (Mr Jason Lewis was a director and his wife is a director and shareholder of this company)

Transactions and balances between the Charity and its trading subsidiary, Variety Events Limited, are set out in the notes to the accounts (see notes 2 and 10).

VARIETY THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 209259

Accounts

Annual report and accounts 2021



Annual Report and Accounts 2021

Year ended 31 December 2021

Chief Barker's report

I am delighted to present our 2021 Annual Report and Accounts.

When we look back at the past year, it's hard not to think of the ongoing pandemic and the huge impact it had on so many lives. The year 2021 was a devastating year for many of us, especially those who lost loved ones, coped with illness or lived with isolation. For disabled and disadvantaged children, it was a time when the right support was hard to come by, and many saw their physical and mental health go downhill.

For our charity it was an exceptionally challenging year. Our ability to fundraise was drastically reduced at a time when children needed our services more than ever. We had to review and make difficult decisions about how we raised money, how we were structured and how we delivered our programmes.

However, I am proud of how we adapted and delivered our support in tough times. Throughout the year we continued to support disadvantaged and disabled children via the provision of grants for equipment, wheelchairs and Sunshine Coaches. We also adapted our Variety Great Days Out programme to provide children with virtual experiences until it was possible to physically enjoy days out again.

Then, with the easing of lockdown restrictions in the summer and autumn of 2021, we were able to successfully market and hold a number of fundraising events, including our 29th annual Props lunch in London and the Legends of Industry event in Manchester. At the same time, building on our recovery plan from earlier in the year we focused on recruiting roles in our fundraising and marketing teams.

In 2021 we spent over £1.9m on the provision of 229 grants and gifts to disabled and disadvantaged children. In total we supported 18,438 children and young people to receive better care, to improve their mobility, independence and wellbeing, to facilitate access to educational experiences - and to better cope with the pressures of the pandemic.

I'd like to recognise the leadership and commitment, of our Chief Executive, Conrad Hollingsworth, who successfully led us through an extremely difficult pandemic period. I would further recognise the considerable contribution of our long serving Finance Director, Taina Teegan, who after 19 years left us in the latter part of the year for a new adventure. I would also like to recognise our North West Development Director Lyn Staunton for her consistent performance, and I would like to thank new members of our developing senior management team for their valued contribution.

I'm equally grateful to our previous Chief Barker, Dilly Kitchlew-Williamson, trustees and committee members who have unfailingly given their time and energy to guide the charity through the crisis using the best combination of experience and expertise.

Finally, I want to thank our staff, volunteers and supporters. In such a challenging year we couldn't have done it without their enormous effort and dedication. Looking ahead, I am confident that we can continue to grow and develop our services in 2022 and beyond - making sure children don't miss out on the experiences and connections that should be part of every childhood.

Tushar Prabhu

Senior Vice President 2021 and Chief Barker and Chair of Trustees 2022

Annual Report and Accounts 2021

TRUSTEES

- Tushar Prabhu - Chief Barker
- Stanley A Salter - Secretary and Treasurer
- Professor Jonathan Shalit OBE - Senior Vice-President
- Malcolm Brenner (retired 31 March 2022)
- Anthony Harris (retired 31 March 2022)
- Dilaram Kitchlew-Williamson
- Jason Lewis
- Tesula Mohindra (appointed 29 April 2021)
- Ronnie Nathan
- Guy Remond (appointed 28 September 2021)
- Neil Sinclair
- Pamela Sinclair (retired 31 March 2022)
- Ben Whittle (appointed 11 February 2022)

Chief Executive

Conrad Hollingsworth

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Secretary and registered office:

Stanley A Salter
Variety House
93 Bayham Street
London
NW1 0AG

Charity number:

209259 (England and Wales)
SC038505 (Scotland)

Company number:

509811 (England and Wales)

Auditors:

Saffery Champness LLP
71 Queen Victoria Street
London
EC4V 4BE

Bankers:

NatWest
2nd Floor, Argyll House
246 Regent Street
London
W1B 3PB

Annual Report and Accounts 2021

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2021

The Trustees submit their Annual Report and Financial Statements of Variety, the Children's Charity (Variety or the charity), a company limited by guarantee, for the year ended 31 December 2021. The Trustees' Annual Report includes the Directors' Report for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006.

Structure, governance and management

The charity currently has 10 Trustees, who are elected every three years, with one third due for re-election each year. They convene at least four times each year. There is a supporting committee covering Audit, Finance and Risk which also convenes at least four times each year.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

On appointment, Trustees sign a register of interests, which is renewed annually.

Trustees' induction and ongoing involvement includes visits to the activities delivered by the charity and presentations of Sunshine Coaches, wheelchairs and other equipment, engagement with beneficiaries, meetings with programme staff, senior staff, volunteers and stakeholders, including funders and corporate supporters.

The Trustees are responsible for governance, strategy, risk management, setting headline objectives and monitoring performance against these objectives. To this end, Trustees receive regular updates, including full reports on activities, targets, impact and financial information, including management accounts on a quarterly basis. Business plans and strategic plans are discussed, agreed, amended and revised by the Trustees at Board meetings.

To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority, within the terms of delegation approved by the Trustees, for the operational matters of the charity.

The Chief Executive reports on performance against the strategic and operational plans approved by the Board and meets with the Chair on a regular basis.

The Chief Executive has responsibility for recruitment and management of the Senior Management Team to ensure that programmes and values are delivered and upheld against plans and priorities agreed by the Board. The Senior Management Team has experience in charity communications and marketing, charity programmes, fundraising, finance, HR and operations and meets on a regular basis with the Chief Executive to discuss operations and strategy.

The Trustees and staff are supported in the business of the charity by a number of volunteers. There are 134 volunteers known as 'Barkers'. The Chair of Trustees, elected annually for a term of one year, is known as the Chief Barker. Each year, the Trustees elect a number of Barkers to a standing

committee (known as 'Crew') whose focus is on fundraising, the development of new events and furthering the mission of the charity.

The Trustees during the year were:

Malcolm Brenner, Anthony Harris, Dilaram Kitchlew-Williamson, Jason Lewis, Tesula Mohindra, Ronnie Nathan, Tushar Prabhu, Guy Remond, Stanley A Salter, Professor Jonathan Shalit OBE, Neil Sinclair, Pamela Sinclair.

History

Variety was formed in the US in 1927 in Pittsburgh, inspired by an abandoned baby, Catherine Variety Sheridan, found in Sheridan's Theatre. After a press campaign to find her mother, a material need was recognised and the "Variety Club" was formed with the first meeting in a circus tent, hence the terminology of 'Tents' and 'Barkers'. The charity was created in the UK in 1949 following a dinner at The Savoy hosted by HRH, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

Employees and volunteers

Variety currently employs 19 people (both full-time and part-time) in its offices across England and Scotland. The charity depends on the commitment and hard work of these staff, who are highly valued. Traditionally, Variety is a volunteer-run charity and relies heavily on volunteer involvement for the running of its many events, including fundraising events and Variety Great Days Out. The Trustees are enormously indebted to these volunteers for their continued support.

Volunteers assist us in a diverse range of roles and activities, at many levels, and throughout the UK. For example, volunteers serve on committees across England and Scotland, for the following aspects of the charity's activities:

- Events
- Fundraising
- Programmes
- Special projects

Management remuneration policy

The Chief Executive is appointed by the Trustees. All other key management personnel are appointed by the Chief Executive. Appointments at this level take into account the following factors:

- The charity's ability to pay the wages of senior staff.
- The types of skills, experiences and competencies the charity needs from its senior staff and the scope of the role being recruited.
- The charity's objectives and the number and nature of senior staff needed to fulfil these.
- The impact of market rates on appointments.

Annual Report and Accounts 2021

Equal opportunities

Variety is committed to the principle and practice of equal opportunities and aims to be an equal opportunities employer. Variety's employment policy aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, disability, national origin, race, religion and sex or any other grounds which are unjustifiable in terms of equality of opportunity for all.

Objectives and activities

The legal objects of the charity, as set out in the Memorandum of Association, the governing document of Variety, are as follows:

- To promote and provide for the care and upbringing of sick, disabled and disadvantaged children up to the age of nineteen within the United Kingdom.
- The advancement of education and the relief of financial need of children within the United Kingdom.
- To undertake, and to assist others to undertake, research into any illness or affliction affecting children which will advance knowledge and to publish the useful results of such research.
- The provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation for children in the interests of their social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for such children.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities, the trustees have given due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Meeting our objectives through Variety's work

When statutory funding cannot adequately meet a child's needs, Variety steps in. Providing high quality, practical, bespoke equipment solutions, and educational experiences through memorable activities, remains Variety's fundamental objective.

We support children in four ways:

- **Mobility** – our equipment grants fund customised wheelchairs and Sunshine Coaches for schools - helping children travel safely, learn on the move and embrace a sense of freedom and discovery.
- **Education** – our equipment and tech grants to youth clubs and young people's organisations encourage learning, develop skills and boost confidence and mental health.
- **Experience** – we love creating memories through Variety Great Days Out – experiences that broaden horizons, offer positive role models, encourage social mobility – and are great fun.
- **Health** – we equip children's hospitals, including our own Variety Children's Hospital, with the latest medical technology and life changing aids.

Grant giving activities

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, our priority in 2021 was to meet the immediate needs of children through providing grants to individuals. To meet this demand, we once again temporarily reduced our support for not-for-profit statutory and voluntary organisations (this did not include our Sunshine Coaches programme) such as schools, hospices, hospitals, youth clubs and community organisations with charitable, Community Interest Company (CIC) or other appropriate status.

Our grant giving programmes improve children and young people's mental and physical wellbeing, reduce loneliness and social isolation, enable independence and mobility, increase participation in sport, contribute to sustained improvements in health and physical development and more.

Applications for individual grants can be made by parents, carers, healthcare professionals or young people themselves. The child or young person for whom the grant application is being made must be 18 or under at the point at which the grant is approved, a permanent resident of the UK and have a recognised disability or long-term health condition. Eligibility for funding is then based on Variety's assessment of the family's financial situation, the frequency of use, the family's ability to cover maintenance costs, safe storage, and the availability of funding from other sources.

Each grant application is initially screened by our staff to ensure it falls within the charity's funding guidelines. It is then passed to a committee of volunteers for assessment which is conducted either by an in-person visit or over-the-phone. In order to process these grant applications quickly, phone assessments and approvals were undertaken by staff and volunteer support, with most grants approved and despatched within four weeks of application.

Experiences

In addition to our grant-giving programmes, Variety also provides memorable and valuable childhood experiences through our Variety Great Days Out programme. The programme aims to improve wellbeing in children and young people by reducing social isolation and increasing participation in previously inaccessible experiences. We do this by removing barriers to opportunities, by building social skills and increasing confidence. In short, these trips out are of the kind that most children take for granted but which our beneficiaries may not otherwise have the chance to enjoy or participate in.

The impact of our programmes

In 2021, we spent over £1.9m on the provision of 229 grants and gifts to disabled and disadvantaged children. In total we supported 18,438 children and young people to receive better care, to improve their mobility, independence and wellbeing, to facilitate their access to education and to better cope with the pressures of the ongoing pandemic.

Annual Report and Accounts 2021

Equipment grants

Throughout the lockdown measures in 2021 Variety continued to provide tangible, practical support to make an immediate difference to the daily lives of disabled children at home. In the year Variety provided 66 grants for types of equipment relating to care, mobility, and wellbeing at an average of £2,650 each, totalling £174,874.

These grants comprised:

- 6 assistive devices enabling better care (such as sleep systems, bathing equipment and orthopaedic seating)
- 10 items of play and sports equipment
- 19 items of sensory equipment
- 6 assistive devices enabling mobility (including car seats and walking frames)
- 25 other items (including assistive technology and IT equipment items)

Ben's story

Ben, from Hampshire, is a very lively 12-year-old who likes to be busy at all times. He loves music, dancing and interaction with others.

Ben was born with a brain malformation called polymicrogyria which has caused him to have severe learning disabilities, visual impairment and other problems, including severe sleep issues – he hasn't slept well since birth. This has had a significant impact on his family's wellbeing.

Ben has zero danger awareness and moves around a lot in bed, and his family has had to explore different solutions for his sleep issues in line with his changing needs over the years.

Following the advice of Ben's occupational therapist, the family acquired a fully enclosed 'safe space' bed, which would prevent him from reaching any walls. However, Ben is very much a sensory-seeker and this new enclosed bed provided the ideal environment for him to run around during the night and bounce off the walls in an effort to get more sensory stimulation. This behaviour would sometimes go on for hours during the night, causing the whole house to vibrate – and it only increased as Ben got older and bigger.

Clearly, a new option was needed. Mum Emma applied to Variety for funding for a new, more compact, low-sensory, multi-functional safe space bed. The bed was delivered at about the same time as the start of the first Covid-related lockdown.

For the first few nights, Ben was very unsettled in his new bed but he soon grew accustomed to it. As the bed is too low for him to stand up in, he now quickly settles himself to sleep. He quite often pulls the entrance zipper down when he gets into his bed as if to say: "*leave me alone now!*".

Lockdown was an awful time for the family as Ben's behaviour became very challenging. The one thing the family held onto every day was the fact that Ben would go to bed and fall asleep every night and they could have some respite. He has even had a couple of 'lie-ins' – once until 8.30 a.m. Emma tells us that this was previously unheard of.

Emma says: "*Thank you so much to Variety and everyone who donates and raises money. The bed your money paid for has had a huge impact on my life; I had forgotten what it was like to get a full night's sleep*".

Wheelchair grants

For children and young people whose primary need is to be independently mobile, the impact of a Variety funded wheelchair, whether powered or manual, is extraordinary.

In 2021 Variety provided 40 wheelchair grants at an average of £5,013 each, totalling £200,527.

The right wheelchair can offer independence to a child or young person, giving them the freedom to explore their environment in their own way, get around at school, keep up with their friends and take part in social activities, sports and hobbies.

We know that a wheelchair has to be appropriate for each child's needs and environment, however, and this is why we part and fully fund a range of different manual, powered and sports wheelchairs according to the individual's age, medical condition and lifestyle.

In 2021 Variety provided:

- 16 manual wheelchairs
- 14 powered wheelchairs
- 8 sports wheelchairs
- 2 wheelchair accessories

PJ's story

Ten-year-old Patrick - known as PJ - received a Tilit ZRA 2 lightweight, ultra-modern wheelchair from Variety thanks to the support of Veolia Water Technologies.

Variety is Veolia's designated charity in the UK and the High Wycombe office wanted to see its fundraising efforts go back into the community and benefit a local child. PJ has Hereditary Familial Spastic Paraparesis, which reduces strength and movement, especially in his legs. It means walking can be a huge struggle.

Having successfully ridden with the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) since he was three, PJ looks to have a great sporting future ahead of him. He's won a National Dressage competition and played wheelchair basketball at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

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Veolia's employees in High Wycombe raised the money for Variety through various initiatives including cakes sales and an auction of goods. So far they have raised £11,000 for the charity.

Patrick's mum Fiona said:

"Our whole family has benefited from PJ getting his new wheelchair. We've been to Central London on the train and tube to meet up with friends. Previously we were limited to places I could drive to, and I hate driving into London! PJ also went on a residential trip with his school where thanks to his wheelchair, he was able to join in every activity with his friends."

Katherine Packham from Veolia said:

"Meeting PJ and knowing that he now has the opportunity to continue in activities with his friends is a truly rewarding experience."

Variety Great Days Out

In 2021 Variety took 10,533 children on 84 Great Days Out, at a cost of £272,745.

We know how important it is to create positive childhood memories. When a day at the seaside, a trip to a theme park, or a visit to Santa's grotto at Christmas is out of reach because there just isn't the money available, Variety can help. Our Great Days Out can broaden horizons, build social skills and support learning and development for disadvantaged children.

In 2021:

- 5,610 children visited zoos, safari parks, wetland centres and farms
- 2,369 children attended Variety Christmas parties
- 185 children went to beach parties
- 20 children went to theatre shows
- 25 children went fishing
- 2,324 children were taken on other Variety Great Days Out, including Zoom parties

Bethany School's story

Variety funded an outing for a group of young carers and pupils from Bethany Junior School, Bournemouth, to the New Forest Wildlife Park, near Southampton. Among the highlights of the day were encounters with a snowy owl, a pair of wallabies, a sleepy fox, some pacing wolves and a gang of playful otters.

The trip gave the children a much-needed break from caring, as well as the chance to have fun, reconnect with the natural world and create some fantastic memories.

Liz Rawson-Jones, pastoral lead at Bethany School said:

"Some of the children have only been at Bethany for a few weeks. To be able to take them out of school on a trip, after all they have been through over the last 18 months, felt amazing. They finished off their day in the play park zipping down the zip wire and climbing wonderful rope structures, simply having the freedom to run and play, to be children and have fun. They loved this."

Variety Sunshine Coaches

In 2021 Variety supplied 39 Sunshine Coaches, in 32 towns and cities, at a cost of £1,273,873.

Variety's famous Sunshine Coaches are specially adapted, accessible minibuses that cater for SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) schools and other non-profit organisations working with disabled and disadvantaged children and young people.

Our coaches give youngsters the opportunity to explore places they would otherwise never visit, experience different learning environments and gain life skills outside the classroom – all while supporting their physical, social and language development.

Having their own coach enables schools and organisations to plan recreational or educational trips with less hassle and more confidence, knowing pupils will be travelling in safety and comfort. In the year we supplied 39 new vehicles, adding to the 900 already on the road.

Sunshine Coaches delivered in 2021 by region:

- 1 Scotland
- 2 Wales
- 9 Midlands
- 3 Northern England
- 24 Southern England

Maes Ebbw School's story

The Maes Ebbw School in Newport has a brand new Variety Sunshine Coach, funded by Variety and St. James's Place Charitable Foundation.

Trips in the Sunshine Coach will enable the school's pupils to benefit from group activities that they otherwise would not be able to do, and in the process equip them with skills that will be beneficial throughout their lives. The school has already planned for groups of pupils to visit Able Radio - a local radio station - to take part in and produce radio shows.

Headteacher Nicola Allan said:

"The new minibus will allow the pupils so many opportunities to take part in activities in the community. Having a specialist minibus for the pupils to travel in safety and comfort allows us to take learning beyond the school"

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Fundraising activities

Variety typically does not receive government or statutory funding/contracts and is therefore greatly dependent on voluntary funds from our varied supporters. We adopt an ethical and transparent approach to our fundraising, and we are a proud member of the Fundraising Regulatory Scheme and the Institute of Fundraising and adhere to all their relevant standards. We did not use the services of professional fundraisers in 2021, nor did we carry out any 'face to face' fundraising in the year.

During the 2021 financial year we also did not receive any complaints regarding our fundraising activities, but in the event of receiving any complaints of this nature, we follow a strict complaints procedure.

Notable donations and funding

We are immensely grateful to all our funders and supporters in 2021, especially as many of our usual fundraising activities were curtailed by the pandemic. To name a few of our most significant donations this year:

- Variety Golf raised £345,788 for our Sunshine Coach programme.
- We received £257,000 from trusts and foundations including donations from St James' Place Charitable Foundation (£58,500), The Bernice Cowen Charitable Trust (£33,000), The Elizabeth and Prince Zaiger Trust (£25,000), The Masonic Charitable Foundation (£24,000) and The Geoff and Fiona Squire Foundation (£23,000).
- Our Patrons programme raised £95,000 - we are very grateful to Michael Josephson MBE (Chair) and his Vice Chair Andrew Geddes.
- We received legacies of more than £59,000 - this is an area where we believe further investment is appropriate and should generate future income in the long term.
- We received over £50,000 from Network Space Holdings Ltd to support our work.
- We received £31,000 from corporate sponsor DPD to support our work.
- We received £27,000 from the Bingo Association towards our Sunshine Coach programme.
- Accessible Retail donated over £15,000 to support our equipment grants.
- McBains, another corporate sponsor, donated £14,000 to support our work.

We hope to be able to return to more of our traditional fundraising events in future, whilst also continuing to revive our existing income pipelines (trusts and foundations, corporates and community fundraising) and exploring other fundraising initiatives.

Financial review

The financial statements cover the activities of Variety, the Children's Charity, and its trading subsidiary, Variety Events Limited, for the year ended 31 December 2021. The results are set out on page 15.

A summary of the results of the subsidiary is set out in note 2 to the financial statements.

Incoming resources increased by 0.5% to £3,687,815 over the previous year (2020: £3,667,806). Of this, £945,531 was generated through the trading subsidiary (2020: £386,343). Donations received totalled £2,356,955 (2020: £2,776,844) and legacy income was £59,163 (2020: £347,874). Donated goods and services income was £234,098 (2020: £54,721), which relates to Variety Great Days Out gift-in-kind value placed on donated outings and small gifts given for children under this programme.

During the year, expenditure on charitable activities was £2,192,867 (2020: £2,338,192) of which £1,343,453 was applied for the purchase of Sunshine Coaches, £274,940 for electric wheelchairs and £297,829 for grants to individuals (principally for the purchase of specialist care or sensory play adaptive equipment), children's hospitals, and other organisations to help children who are disabled or living with financial disadvantage. £276,645 was applied to Variety Great Days Out activities.

Financial position and reserves policy

Variety's charitable giving commitments are conditional upon the raising of specific funds.

The surplus in the year of £28,391 (2020: deficit £155,838) before gain on investments comprised a surplus on unrestricted funds of £332,184 (2020: surplus £77,522) and deficit on restricted funds of £303,793 (2020: deficit £233,360). The deficit on restricted funds results from monies received in 2020 for specific purposes, but spent in 2021.

Like all charitable organisations, Variety must retain unrestricted reserves to allow the charity to meet its ongoing commitments and bridge any unforeseen gaps between the spending and receiving of income. The Trustees had set a revised target for unrestricted reserves of between four and six months' forecast operating and administration costs by the end of 2021, currently circa £550,000 to £825,000. Despite the Covid-19 outbreak, this target was achieved. Unrestricted reserves are monitored quarterly by the Trustees.

At the end of the year, unrestricted funds were £3,147,888, of which fixed assets, net of the mortgage secured on our head office represented £2,064,764. Thus, unrestricted free reserves at 31 December 2021 amounted to £1,083,124 which is more than the charity's target for 2021. This is a result of the charity having raised some additional loans to ensure future sustainability in these very uncertain economic times.

The total funds of the group at 31 December 2021 were £3,790,147 including cash of £2,024,573, which has increased by £303,438 over the year.

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Investment policy

The charity's primary investment objective is to maintain the value of its investments. The charity does not hold long term cash investments. Since 1998 the charity has owned the freehold interest in a commercial office building from which its head office operates and of which 35.51 per cent is sublet. The estimated value of the sublet property as at 31 December 2021, based upon a valuation by Robert Irving Burns Property Consultants, is £1,685,000. All income arising from it is unrestricted income. In addition, certain office car parking spaces that form part of the curtilage of the freehold office building are rented out on a short term basis.

The charity's commercial activities are undertaken by its wholly owned subsidiary, Variety Events Limited with all profits donated under Gift Aid to the charity.

Principal risks and uncertainties

There are a number of risks and uncertainties that can impact on the performance of the charity, some of which are beyond the control of Trustees. The Audit, Finance and Risk Committee meets and assesses the major risks to which Variety is exposed.

Key risks identified were as follows:

- Insufficient level of unrestricted income
- The level of income could fall noticeably, whether from donations or trading subsidiary activities (which includes non-return of traditional Variety Events).

Building on the previous year's forward/recovery plan, we developed our key priorities, which included further investment in our fundraising capability, with the decision to re-introduce a Head of Fundraising, full time Trusts and Foundations Manager and full time Corporate Partnerships Manager. Future recruitment will include a new Individual Giving Officer, with responsibility for legacies. This role is regarded as key, as unrestricted income is viewed as a high priority.

The importance of communications as a complementary function to enhance and ensure the success of our fundraising ambitions was further realised. We re-introduced the Head of Marketing and Communications position during the year, and are introducing a PR and Communications Officer post, which will support our fundraising, programmes and brand activities with a focus on content creation, PR and social media.

Other fundraising initiatives were given careful consideration and a menu of various initiatives will be planned in as further momentum is gathered through our fundraising events and other fundraising income streams.

In the event of us once again experiencing a considerable drop in income whether from donations or trading subsidiary activities, the total of grants committed will have to be reduced and we would once again prioritise individual grants. Since grants are paid once the money becomes available, there is limited risk of financial exposure to the charity.

Variety also operates effective and extensive financial management which includes: an annual planning and budgeting system with an annual budget approved by the Trustees; reforecasting, at a minimum, quarterly and all significant budget variations are subject to Trustee approval. During the latter part of the year important work was undertaken linked to a recovery plan that incorporated a two-year budget for 2022/2023 with worst and best case forecasts for each year approved by Variety's Trustees.

Going concern

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected cashflows and income and expenditure for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least a year from the date the accounts are signed. The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will be able to continue in business and meet its liabilities as they fall due. The accounts have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

Impact of COVID-19 on our organisation

The continued impact of the global pandemic and subsequent UK lockdown measures meant careful planning and implementation of the following:

- Reduced expenditure wherever possible to protect our cash, which included further utilising the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, to enable staff to be retained in the charity and to reduce our overall costs.
- During the latter part of the year important detailed budgetary work was undertaken linked to a recovery plan. The production of a two-year budget covering 2022/2023 with worst- and best-case forecasts went through robust scrutiny and due diligence.
- Work linked to the introduction of various fundraising activities and initiatives to replace predicted income loss, which included the restructure of our regional teams and plans to re-launch our Midlands region with the introduction of a property awards event.
- We prioritised the needs of individuals above organisations to reduce expenditure and focus on those beneficiaries in greatest need.

In ensuring the health and well-being of our staff we carried out the following actions:

- Observed Government guidance and implemented the ability for all staff, where possible, to work from home.
- Those with health needs/child or other caring responsibilities were afforded extra flexibility, care and attention.

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Plans for the future

We can look to the future with confidence and optimism, having taken the necessary steps to address the financial and operational challenges we faced as a result of the pandemic.

In 2022, our aim is to refocus the charity to deliver sustainable growth, both financially and in terms of our support for children and young people. We will deliver our recovery plan focusing on the following four key areas:

Operational effectiveness

We have committed a review to evaluate the merits of simplifying our corporate structure in order to achieve greater operational efficiency. We will implement new CRM and finance systems that will allow us to more efficiently produce financial information, automate more processes, improve the quality of our data and ensure that we meet best practice requirements in donor data management. We launched our new website in early 2022, which will facilitate more efficient internal working, improve the experience for our external stakeholders and enable seamless giving for all our supporters. These improvements will provide solid foundations for growth across the charity.

Programmes

By reviewing and revising where necessary our working practice and procedures in our programmes department, we will ensure efficiency, flexibility and equity across our grant giving activities.

Fundraising

By re-introducing the core fundraising team, we will focus on maximising existing and new income streams in areas such as corporate partnerships, trusts and foundations and individual giving. We will also expand our existing event fundraising activity bringing us back to our core show business roots.

Marketing and communication

By upgrading our PR and communication function, refreshing our identity and launching a digital strategy alongside our new website we will project Variety's brand and drive fundraising, programmes and other initiatives.

To achieve our goals we will draw on the collaborative strengths that have driven Variety as an organisation for over 70 years, and we will also seek to build partnerships with individuals and organisations that enhance our work and future ambitions.

Auditors

Saffery Champness LLP have expressed their willingness to remain in office as auditors of the company.

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Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Variety, the Children's Charity, for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law 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 charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group 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 (FRS 102);
- 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 charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, relating to small companies.

This report of the Trustees, was approved by the Board of Trustees on 30th June 2022, and is signed as authorised on its behalf by:



Stanley A Salter

11 August 2022

Date

Annual Report and Accounts 2021

Independent auditor's report to the Trustees and members

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Variety, the Children's Charity (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the group and the parent charitable company as at 31 December 2021 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve

months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 11, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the group and parent financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities:

We assessed the susceptibility of the group and parent charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company by discussions with trustees, and updating our understanding of the sector in which the group and parent charitable company operate.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company include the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

Audit response to risks identified:

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the parent charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the parent charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

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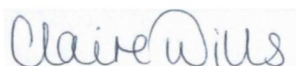
During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the parent charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the parent charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the parent charitable company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the parent charitable company, the parent charitable company's members and trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Claire Wills (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of Saffery Champness LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
71 Queen Victoria Street
London
EC4V 4BE

16 August 2022

Date

Saffery Champness LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Variety, the Children's Charity
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities
(incorporating an Income and Expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 December 2021

15

Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and expenditure						
Income from:						
Donations and legacies						
	902,511	1,454,444	2,356,955	771,227	2,005,617	2,776,844
	59,163	-	59,163	332,874	15,000	347,874
3	-	234,098	234,098	-	54,721	54,721
Other trading activities						
2	945,531	-	945,531	182,974	203,369	386,343
Investments						
	92,065	-	92,065	101,916	-	101,916
	3	-	3	108	-	108
Total	1,999,273	1,688,542	3,687,815	1,389,099	2,278,707	3,667,806
5 Expenditure on:						
5	1,347,850	118,707	1,466,557	1,033,148	452,304	1,485,452
	1,347,850	118,707	1,466,557	1,033,148	452,304	1,485,452
5 Charitable activities						
	3,045	1,340,408	1,343,453	25,158	1,483,976	1,509,134
	122,584	152,356	274,940	89,765	103,393	193,158
	171,685	126,144	297,829	108,545	387,034	495,579
	21,925	254,720	276,645	54,961	85,360	140,321
	319,239	1,873,628	2,192,867	278,429	2,059,763	2,338,192
Total	1,667,089	1,992,335	3,659,424	1,311,577	2,512,067	3,823,644
Net income/ (expenditure) before gain/(loss) on investments	332,184	(303,793)	28,391	77,522	(233,360)	(155,838)
9 Net gain/ (loss) on investments	65,000	-	65,000	(115,000)	-	(115,000)
Net income/ (expenditure) and net movement in funds	397,184	(303,793)	93,391	(37,478)	(233,360)	(270,838)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	2,750,704	946,052	3,696,756	2,788,182	1,179,412	3,967,594
14 Total funds carried forward	3,147,888	642,259	3,790,147	2,750,704	946,052	3,696,756

All amounts relate to continuing activities.

All recognised gains and losses are included in the consolidated statement of financial activities.

The notes on pages 19 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

Notes	2021	2020
	£	£
Fixed assets		
8 Tangible assets	1,651,808	1,681,992
9 Investments	1,685,000	1,620,000
	<u>3,336,808</u>	<u>3,301,992</u>
Current assets		
10 Debtors	383,459	408,236
Cash at bank and in hand	2,024,573	1,721,135
	<u>2,408,032</u>	<u>2,129,371</u>
11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>556,010</u>	<u>581,028</u>
Net current assets	<u>1,852,022</u>	<u>1,548,343</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	5,188,830	4,850,335
12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	1,398,683	1,153,579
Total net assets	<u>3,790,147</u>	<u>3,696,756</u>
The funds of the group:		
13 Restricted funds	642,259	946,052
13 Unrestricted funds	3,147,888	2,750,704
Total group funds	<u>3,790,147</u>	<u>3,696,756</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The parent charity has taken advantage of the legal dispensation not to present its own income and expenditure account as permitted under Section 408(3) of the Companies Act 2006. The charity's net income for the year was £93,391 (2020: net expenditure of £270,838)

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 30th June 2022, and signed on their behalf on 11 August 2022 by:

Trustees



Stanley A Salter



Tushar Prabhu

The notes on pages 19 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

Notes	2021	2020
	£	£
Fixed assets		
8 Tangible assets	1,651,808	1,681,992
9 Investments	1,685,100	1,620,100
	<u>3,336,908</u>	<u>3,302,092</u>
Current assets		
10 Debtors	1,189,787	841,460
Cash at bank and in hand	1,127,860	1,110,134
	<u>2,317,647</u>	<u>1,951,594</u>
11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>465,725</u>	<u>403,351</u>
Net current assets	<u>1,851,922</u>	<u>1,548,243</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	5,188,830	4,850,335
12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	1,398,683	1,153,579
Total net assets	<u>3,790,147</u>	<u>3,696,756</u>
The funds of the charity:		
13 Restricted funds	642,259	946,052
13 Unrestricted funds	3,147,888	2,750,704
Total charity funds	<u>3,790,147</u>	<u>3,696,756</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 30th June 2022 and signed on their behalf on 11 August 2022 by:

Trustees



Stanley A Salter



Tushar Prabhu

The notes on pages 19 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

Notes	2021	2020
	£	£
20 Net cash used in operating activities	(55,658)	(295,226)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	92,068	102,024
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(5,652)	(3,274)
Net cash provided by investing activities	86,416	98,750
Cash flow from financing activities:		
Repayments of borrowing	(70,785)	(43,347)
Cash inflows from new borrowings	343,465	250,000
Net cash provided by investing activities	272,680	206,653
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	303,438	10,177
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,721,135	1,710,958
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	2,024,573	1,721,135

Analysis of changes in net debt

2021

	At start of year £	Cash-flows £	Transfers £	At end of year £
Cash	1,721,135	303,438	-	2,024,573
Loans falling due within one year	(70,785)	70,785	(98,361)	(98,361)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(1,153,579)	(343,465)	98,361	(1,398,683)
Total	496,771	30,758	-	527,529

2020

	At start of year £	Cash-flows £	Transfers £	At end of year £
Cash	1,710,958	10,177	-	1,721,135
Loans falling due within one year	(43,347)	18,347	(45,785)	(70,785)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(974,364)	(225,000)	45,785	(1,153,579)
Total	693,247	(196,476)	-	496,771

The notes on pages 19 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

1 Accounting Policies

- 1.1 The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, subject to the revaluation of freehold and investment property. The financial statements are prepared in compliance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102), the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic Ireland.

Variety, the Children's Charity (Variety) is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales, registered address Variety House, 93 Bayham Street, London NW1 0AG.

Variety meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Monetary amounts are presented in pound sterling as that is the functional currency of the Charity. Figures are rounded to the nearest £.

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected cashflows and income and expenditure for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least a year from the date the accounts are signed. The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity will be able to continue in business and meet its liabilities as they fall due. The accounts have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

1.2 Income and expenditure

All incoming resources, including legacies and governments grants, are recognised as income when Variety is entitled to the income, that it is probable the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis and includes irrecoverable VAT. Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Grants payable are charged in the year where the offer is conveyed to the recipient except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions are no longer seen to be within the control of the Trustees. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

- 1.3 Donated goods and services are included in the financial statements at a valuation which is an estimate of the market value of the services provided, where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the committee members and other volunteers is not recognised. However, the Trustees' annual report provides more information about their contribution.

- 1.4 Expenditure on raising funds are those costs which are incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

- 1.5 Charitable activities include grants and donations applied for the purchase of Sunshine Coaches and electric wheelchairs, grants for the benefit of individuals, hospitals and other organisations to help sick and disabled children. These include both the direct costs and support costs relating to the various activities.

- 1.6 Support costs relate to costs of central activities. These are allocated to activities in proportion to staff time on the relevant activity.

- 1.7 Governance costs, which are included in support costs include those incurred in the governance of the Charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.8 Basis of consolidation

The consolidated accounts incorporate the financial statements of Variety, the Children's Charity (Variety) and its subsidiary undertaking, Variety Events Limited (Events), consolidated on a line by line basis.

1.9 Restricted funds

Where a donor has specified a particular purpose for a donation, all transactions have been reflected within restricted funds. Movements in these funds are detailed in note 14 to the financial statements.

1.10 Depreciation

Variety took the option under FRS 102 to treat the previous valuation of the freehold land and property as deemed cost. Other tangible assets are carried at historical cost. Depreciation is provided to write off the cost, less estimated residual values, of all fixed assets over their expected useful lives. It is calculated on the original cost (or valuation) of the assets at the following rates:

Office equipment	-	20% to 33% per annum
Freehold building	-	2% per annum

There is no set limit below which fixed assets are not capitalised.

1.11 Pension costs

Contributions to Variety's money purchase group personal pension plan are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the accounting period in which they are payable.

1.12 Investment property

Investment property, which is property held to earn rent and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at deemed cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.13 Financial instruments

Variety only has financial instruments and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments, including trade and other debtors, and cash and bank balances, are initially recognised at the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less impairment.

Financial assets are derecognised when (a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or (b) substantially all the risks and rewards of the ownership of the asset are transferred to another party.

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other creditors, and loans from third parties are initially recognised at the transaction price. Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods and services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Trade creditors are initially recognised at the transaction price and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Debt instruments include bank loans and mortgages. These are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.14 Critical accounting 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 period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The financial statements include the following key estimates:

The freehold property comprises three floors, two of which are occupied by Variety and the third floor is let at a commercial rent. The third floor investment property was revalued as at 31 December 2021 at £1.685m on 14 June 2022 by Robert Irving Burns Limited, 29-30 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 6LQ. The market value is based on the long leasehold interest, with the existing tenancy.

The Charity estimates the market value of intangible income using publicly available price lists, or through direct confirmation with the suppliers of the amount that would have been charged had the gift or donated service been invoiced.

Accrued income of £144,789 from residuary legacies, which is included in debtors at year end. The amount reflects the Charity's best estimate of what it will receive from its share of the estates. The net value of estates can change as assets are realised and so the amounts the Charity receives may differ from the initial estimate.

2 Net income from trading activities of subsidiary

The principal activity of the subsidiary, Variety Events Limited (company no. 02280720), is the organisation and promotion of fund-raising activities and the sale of merchandise on behalf of Variety. A summary of the results is set out below. Audited accounts are filed with the Registrar of Companies.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Profit and loss account		
Turnover	945,531	386,343
Cost of sales	427,554	78,538
Gross profit	517,977	307,805
Fundraising and publicity	179,233	189,918
Management and administration (payable to the Charity)	9,200	9,600
Net profit	329,544	108,287
Gift aid donation to Charity	329,544	108,287
Retained profit	-	-

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:

Assets	1,001,172	740,845
Liabilities	(1,001,072)	(740,745)
Funds (representing 100 ordinary shares of £1 each)	100	100

3 Donated goods and services

	2021	2020
	£	£
Intangible Income - Gift in Kind	234,098	54,721
	234,098	54,721

Total expenditure includes £234,098 (2020: £54,721) an equivalent amount being described as Intangible Income (Gift in Kind) in the Statement of Financial Activities. This amount is in respect of Variety Great Days Out activities.

4 Employees

	2021	2020
	£	£
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	709,893	1,031,977
Social security costs	64,031	92,978
Other pension costs	51,097	69,402
	825,021	1,194,357

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
Fundraising	8	13
Events	4	5
Sunshine Coaches	1	2
Wheelchairs	1	1
Grants	2	3
Variety Great Days Out activities	-	1
Support	6	9
	22	34

Included in the above is a termination payment of £8,704 (2020: nil)

The number of employees whose total remuneration (excluding pension) exceeded £60,000 was as follows:

	Number 2021	Number 2020
£60,000 to £69,999	-	1
£70,000 to £79,999	1	1
£80,000 to £89,999	-	1

The key management personnel of Variety comprises the Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Management Team. The total combined contractual benefits of the key management personnel of Variety was £255,467 (2020: £462,696).

5 Expenditure	Direct staff	Grant costs	Other direct	Support costs	Total
	costs	(Note 17)	costs	(Note 6)	
2021	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising donations and legacies	295,806	-	21,428	354,817	672,051
Cost of sales of trading subsidiary	-	-	418,537	-	418,537
Events support	171,039	-	-	204,930	375,969
	<u>466,845</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>439,965</u>	<u>559,747</u>	<u>1,466,557</u>
Sunshine Coaches	29,158	1,273,873	-	40,422	1,343,453
Wheelchairs	26,970	200,527	-	47,443	274,940
Grants	48,402	174,874	-	74,553	297,829
Variety Great Days Out	1,465	272,745	-	2,435	276,645
	<u>105,995</u>	<u>1,922,019</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>164,853</u>	<u>2,192,867</u>
	<u>572,840</u>	<u>1,922,019</u>	<u>439,965</u>	<u>724,600</u>	<u>3,659,424</u>
2020	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising donations and legacies	485,269	-	61,186	509,187	1,055,642
Cost of sales of trading subsidiary	-	-	78,538	-	78,538
Events support	171,644	-	-	179,628	351,272
	<u>656,913</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>139,724</u>	<u>688,815</u>	<u>1,485,452</u>
Sunshine Coaches	62,794	1,375,960	-	70,380	1,509,134
Wheelchairs	32,751	114,946	-	45,461	193,158
Grants	62,633	346,783	-	86,163	495,579
Variety Great Days Out	22,201	81,866	-	36,254	140,321
	<u>180,379</u>	<u>1,919,555</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>238,258</u>	<u>2,338,192</u>
	<u>837,292</u>	<u>1,919,555</u>	<u>139,724</u>	<u>927,073</u>	<u>3,823,644</u>

6 Support Costs	Staff	Depreciation	Other	Total
	£	£	£	
2021	£	£	£	£
Governance/Legal	59,084	-	113,783	172,867
Finance & Administration	128,985	-	-	128,985
IT & Database	34,905	-	79,742	114,647
Office costs	6,844	-	173,002	179,846
HR/Staff related costs	7,633	-	48,044	55,677
Media/Publicity	14,278	-	2,780	17,058
Other support costs	452	35,836	19,232	55,520
	<u>252,181</u>	<u>35,836</u>	<u>436,583</u>	<u>724,600</u>
2020	£	£	£	£
Governance/Legal	108,444	-	147,686	256,130
Finance & Administration	142,901	-	-	142,901
IT & Database	35,061	-	81,606	116,667
Office costs	18,044	-	206,103	224,147
HR/Staff related costs	13,385	-	53,587	66,972
Media/Publicity	34,490	-	8,454	42,944
Other support costs	5,754	41,234	30,324	77,312
	<u>358,079</u>	<u>41,234</u>	<u>527,760</u>	<u>927,073</u>

7 Net expenditure/ income is stated after charging:	2021	2020
	£	£
Depreciation		
- office equipment	11,652	17,050
- freehold building	24,184	24,184
Auditors' remuneration - audit	27,300	25,200
Auditors' remuneration - taxation services	2,892	9,780
Operating lease expenditure	21,318	21,077

8 Tangible assets	Freehold land and buildings	Office equipment	Total
Group and company	£	£	£
Cost			
1 January 2021	2,279,182	68,720	2,347,902
Additions	-	5,652	5,652
31 December 2021	<u>2,279,182</u>	<u>74,372</u>	<u>2,353,554</u>
Depreciation			
1 January 2021	614,284	51,626	665,910
Charge for the year	24,184	11,652	35,836
31 December 2021	<u>638,468</u>	<u>63,278</u>	<u>701,746</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2021	<u>1,640,714</u>	<u>11,094</u>	<u>1,651,808</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2020	1,664,898	17,094	1,681,992

9 Fixed asset investments	Notes	Group 2021	Company 2021	Group 2020	Company 2020
		£	£	£	£
Investment in subsidiary	(a)	-	100	-	100
Investment property	(b)	1,685,000	1,685,000	1,620,000	1,620,000
		<u>1,685,000</u>	<u>1,685,100</u>	<u>1,620,000</u>	<u>1,620,100</u>

- (a) Variety owns all the issued shares (100 Ordinary shares of £1 each) in Variety Events Limited, a Company which is registered and operates in England (Variety House, 93 Bayham Street, London NW1 0AG) and whose main activity is the organisation and promotion of fund-raising activities and the sale of Gold Hearts and other merchandise on behalf of Variety. These are included in the financial statements at cost.
- (b) The freehold property comprises three floors, two of which are occupied by Variety and the third floor is let at a commercial rent. The third floor investment property was revalued as at 31 December 2021 at £1.685m on 14 June 2022 by Robert Irving Burns Limited, 29-30 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 6LQ. The market value is based on the long leasehold interest, with the existing tenancy.

10 Debtors	Group 2021	Company 2021	Group 2020	Company 2020
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	96,512	49,667	45,027	36,565
Amounts due from subsidiary undertaking	-	910,786	-	563,068
Other debtors	3,803	3,803	120,195	45,573
Prepayments and accrued income	283,144	225,531	243,014	196,254
	<u>383,459</u>	<u>1,189,787</u>	<u>408,236</u>	<u>841,460</u>

All debtors are due within one year.

However, included in prepayments and accrued income is income from legacies which will be received when the estates are finalised.

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	Group 2021 £	Company £	Group 2020 £	Company £
Accruals for grants payable	211,913	211,913	183,803	183,803
Mortgage (secured - see note 12)	48,361	48,361	45,785	45,785
Bank loan (see note 12)	50,000	50,000	25,000	25,000
Trade creditors	58,994	58,994	21,835	21,779
Accruals and deferred income	161,658	84,873	262,515	108,809
Other creditors	25,084	11,584	42,090	18,175
	556,010	465,725	581,028	403,351

The movement in creditors for grants and donations is as follow:

	2020 £	Charge for the year £	Payments £	2021 £
Wheelchairs	19,200	200,101	(155,757)	63,544
Sunshine Coaches	110,466	1,273,873	(1,301,727)	82,612
General grants	54,137	203,934	(192,314)	65,757
	183,803	1,677,908	(1,649,798)	211,913

	2019 £	Charge for the year £	Payments £	2020 £
Wheelchairs	66,944	90,065	(137,809)	19,200
Sunshine Coaches	31,131	1,463,343	(1,384,008)	110,466
General grants	116,315	361,774	(423,952)	54,137
	214,390	1,915,182	(1,945,769)	183,803

Deferred income

Deferred income comprises advance ticket sales for various events, London Marathon registration fees and rental income received in advance.

	Group £	Company £
Balance as at 1 January 2021	167,215	26,625
Amount released to income earned	(167,215)	(26,625)
Amount deferred in year	89,759	26,924
Balance as at 31 December 2021	89,759	26,924

	Group £	Company £
Balance as at 1 January 2020	133,376	26,566
Amount released to income earned	(133,376)	(26,566)
Amount deferred in year	167,215	26,625
Balance as at 31 December 2020	167,215	26,625

12 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

Group and company	2021 £	2020 £
Mortgage (secured)	1,223,683	928,579
Bank Loan (Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan)	175,000	225,000
	1,398,683	1,153,579

Mortgage (secured)

The mortgage is secured on Variety's freehold land and building and is repayable over the remaining period of 6 years and 3 months at interest rates of 5.51% and 3.19% per annum as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
In more than one year but not more than two years	51,081	48,361
In more than two years but not more than five years	171,138	162,024
In more than five years	1,001,464	718,194
	1,223,683	928,579

The proportion of the loan to the value of the assets charged is:

40%	30%
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12 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (continued)

Bank Loan (Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan)

The Government pays the interest on the loan for the first 12 months from 9th June 2021 (Business Interruption Payment). The bank loan is repayable over the remaining period of 54 months at an interest rate of 2.09% p.a. over Base Rate

	2021 £	2020 £
In more than one year but not more than two years	50,000	50,000
In more than two years but not more than five years	125,000	150,000
In more than five years	-	25,000
	175,000	225,000

13 Analysis of group net assets between funds

	2021 £	2021 Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £
Fixed assets	3,336,808	-	3,336,808
Current assets	1,553,860	854,172	2,408,032
Current liabilities	(344,097)	(211,913)	(556,010)
Long-term liabilities	(1,398,683)	-	(1,398,683)
Total net assets	3,147,888	642,259	3,790,147

	2020 £	2020 Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £
Fixed assets	3,301,992	-	3,301,992
Current assets	999,516	1,129,855	2,129,371
Current liabilities	(397,225)	(183,803)	(581,028)
Long-term liabilities	(1,153,579)	-	(1,153,579)
Total net assets	2,750,704	946,052	3,696,756

14 Movement on funds

Group and company	2021 Opening Balance £	2021 Income £	2021 Expenditure £	2021 Transfers/ gains and (losses) £	2021 Closing Balance £
Unrestricted funds	2,750,704	1,999,273	(1,667,089)	65,000	3,147,888
Restricted funds					
Sunshine Coach Programme incl. Variety Golf	527,167	1,035,084	(1,340,408)	-	221,843
Wheelchair Programme	66,035	206,655	(126,413)	-	146,277
Special Purpose Funds	259,763	348,096	(426,807)	-	181,052
Kings College Hospital	93,087	-	-	-	93,087
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	98,707	(98,707)	-	-
	946,052	1,688,542	(1,992,335)	-	642,259
Total funds	3,696,756	3,687,815	(3,659,424)	65,000	3,790,147

The gain of £65,000 for the year ended 31 December 2021 reflects the gain on revaluation of the investment property.

	2020 Opening Balance £	2020 Income £	2020 Expenditure £	2020 Transfers/ gains and (losses) £	2020 Closing Balance £
Unrestricted funds	2,788,182	1,389,099	(1,311,577)	(115,000)	2,750,704
Restricted funds					
Sunshine Coach Programme	170,399	1,228,733	(1,151,604)	-	247,528
Wheelchair Programme	46,003	129,426	(109,394)	-	66,035
Variety Golf	369,935	496,511	(586,807)	-	279,639
Special Purpose Funds	499,988	97,246	(337,471)	-	259,763
Kings College Hospital	93,087	-	-	-	93,087
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	216,791	(216,791)	-	-
Coronavirus Community Support Fund	-	110,000	(110,000)	-	-
	1,179,412	2,278,707	(2,512,067)	-	946,052
Total funds	3,967,594	3,667,806	(3,823,644)	(115,000)	3,696,756

The loss of £115,000 for the year ended 31 December 2020 reflects the loss on revaluation of the investment property.

14 Movement on funds (continued)

Sunshine Coaches Programme

The fund comprises monies raised to provide Sunshine Coaches, excluding funds raised by Variety Golf or contributions from Variety's Special Purpose Funds. Sunshine Coaches are presented to schools, hospitals, children's homes and other such organisations throughout the UK.

Wheelchair Programme

The Wheelchair Programme Committee raises funds to deal with the heavy demand for indoor/outdoor electric wheelchairs and sports/lightweight wheelchairs which are not currently provided by the NHS.

Variety Golf

Variety Golf assists Variety by organising Golf events, the funds of which are used to purchase Sunshine Coaches.

Special Purpose Funds

Variety works closely with donors to help them raise funds and to match those funds to suitable projects. Special Purpose Funds reflect funds raised to help sick, disabled and disadvantaged children and young people who have not yet been matched to specific projects.

Kings College Hospital

Funds raised to contribute to the building of a new wing at the Variety Children's Hospital at Kings.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

HMRC scheme in which Variety was able to claim for 80% of employee's wages, employers NI and pension contributions for staff put on furlough or flexible furlough because of coronavirus.

Coronavirus Community Support Fund

Variety received from The National Lottery Community Fund a grant to support children and families during the Covid-19 lockdown.

15 Taxation status

Variety is a registered charity and is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable income, provided this is spent on charitable purposes.

The subsidiary undertaking's profits are donated to Variety under Gift Aid through a deed of covenant. Accordingly there is no provision for taxation on its profit for the year.

16 Members' liability

As Variety is limited by guarantee, there is no share capital. At 31 December 2021, there were 12 members (2020 - 10), each of whom have undertaken to contribute to the assets in the event of Variety being wound up, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £1.

17 Grants and donations

2021	Individuals		Institutions		Total	
	£	No	£	No	£	No
Grants	129,030	65	45,844	1	174,874	66
Sunshine Coaches	-	-	1,273,873	39	1,273,873	39
Wheelchairs	200,527	40	-	-	200,527	40
Variety Great Days Out	272,745	10,533	-	-	272,745	10,533
	<u>602,302</u>	<u>10,638</u>	<u>1,319,717</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>1,922,019</u>	<u>10,678</u>

Analysis of grants £5,000 and over made to institutions:

	£
Green Meadows School, Leeds	45,402
Mapledown School, Cricklewood	43,056
Ade Adepitan Short Break Centre, London	42,086
Meadowgate School, Wisbech	41,306
Woodlands School (Surrey CC), Leatherhead	41,306
Meadows School, Oldbury	41,306
Ysgol Pen-y-Bryn, Morriston	41,306
All Saints CE (Aided) Primary School and Nursey, Wokingham	41,306
Sherwood Park School, Carshalton	41,306
Clifton Hill School, Chaterham	41,306
St Cenydd Community School, Caerphilly	41,306
Pens Meadow School, Stourbridge	41,306
Hazelbeck School, Bingley	41,306
The Westminster School, Rowley Regis	41,306
Balance carried forward	<u>584,910</u>

17 Grants and donations (continued)

	£
Balance brought forward	584,910
Green Fold Special School, Bolton	41,306
Twydall Primary School, Kent	36,651
Foxwood Special School, Nottingham	36,651
Pond Meadow School, Guildford	36,651
West Road Primary, Doncaster	30,740
The Shine Centre, Braunstone Town	30,740
Drumbeat School & ASD Service, Bromley	30,740
Cranbrook Primary School, Ilford	30,740
Icknield Primary School, Luton	30,740
Making Communities Work, London	30,740
St Luke's School, Redbourn, Hertfordshire	30,740
Belmont Park School, Leyton	30,740
The Jeanne Saunders Centre, Hove	28,438
Foxfield Academy, Blaby	28,438
Addey and Stanhope School, London	28,438
The Pines School, Birmingham	28,438
Maes Ebbw Special School, Maesglas	24,806
Garston Manor School, Watford	24,506
Greenvale School, London	24,506
Chailey Heritage School, Nr. Lewes	24,506
Five Acre School, Kent	24,506
Thisle Wing Kinnaird School, Larbet	23,651
Manor Green College, Crawley	21,601
St Peters CE Primary School, Leeds	19,940
The Gesher Trust (Gesher School), Pinner	18,190
Muntham House School, Horsham	16,638
Donations under £5,000	1,026
	<u>1,319,717</u>

2020	Individuals		Institutions		Total	
	£	No	£	No	£	No
Grants	301,201	1,142	45,582	12	346,783	1,154
Sunshine Coaches	-	-	1,375,960	41	1,375,960	41
Wheelchairs	91,046	20	23,900	1	114,946	21
Variety Great Days Out	81,866	3,857	-	-	81,866	3,857
	<u>474,113</u>	<u>5,019</u>	<u>1,445,442</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>1,919,555</u>	<u>5,073</u>

Analysis of grants £5,000 and over made to institutions:

	£
St John's Catholic School, Wetherby	44,526
Shenstone School, Crayford	72,486
Ambitious About Autism, London	41,526
Claremont School, Bristol	41,306
Wyre Forest School, Kidderminster	41,306
Two Rivers Primary School, Tamworth	41,306
The Albion Foundation, Smethwick	41,306
Talbot Special School, Sheffield	41,306
Rowan Tree Primary School, Manchester	41,306
Red Gates School, South Croydon	69,160
Northwood Community Primary School, Kirby	41,306
Eresby School, Spilsby	41,306
Drumpark Primary School, Coatbridge	41,306
Castledon School, Wickford	41,306
Brimble Hill School, Swindon	41,306
The Young Lewisham Project, Forest Hill	37,708
Resources for Autism, Barnet	37,108
Willowbank School, Kilmarnock	36,871
Birtenshaw School, Liverpool	36,797
The Milestone School, Longlevens	36,651
Ash Lee School, Cotgrave	36,651
Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project, Cramlington	34,346
Drumbeat School and ASD Service, Bromley	30,740
Carnforth School, Worcester	30,740
Balance carried forward	<u>999,676</u>

17 Grants and donations (continued)	£
Balance brought forward	999,676
Villiers High School, Southall	28,948
St Martins School, Alvaston	28,438
Manchester Secondary School, Manchester	28,438
Jenner Park Primary School, Barry	28,438
Grange Park School, Wrotham	28,438
Fox Hollies Special School, Birmingham	28,438
Football Beyond Borders, Manchester	28,438
Cherry Oak School, Birmingham	28,438
Cricket Green School, Mitcham	24,806
Brooklands School, Reigate	24,806
Sale United Power Chair Football Club, Nantwich	23,900
Willow Dene School, Plumstead	22,651
The Firs, Northolt	21,901
Maddison Primary School, Falkirk	21,901
Mary Russell School, Paisley	16,938
Brooklands School, Reigate	16,938
Springwell School, Hartlepool	9,851
North Becton Primary School, Newham	8,000
The Milestone School, Gloucester	6,700
The Golf Trust, London	5,332
Donations under £5,000	14,028
	<u>1,445,442</u>

18 Commitments

As at 31 December 2021, Variety had approved in principal, applications requesting to supply Sunshine Coaches totalling £265,433 (2020: £388,925). The grants are conditional upon specific funding being raised to finance the cost of the coaches. The specific funding for these coaches had not been confirmed at the year end.

19 Pensions

Variety operates a money purchase group personal pension plan. There are a number of individual pension plans to which Variety contributes.

20 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period	93,391	(270,838)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	35,836	41,234
(Gains)/losses on investments	(65,000)	115,000
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	(92,068)	(102,024)
Decrease in debtors	24,777	102,946
(Decrease) in creditors	(52,594)	(181,544)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(55,658)</u>	<u>(295,226)</u>

21 Operating lessor commitments

At 31 December 2021, the group was entitled to receive future payments from non-cancellable operating leases of £156,500 (2020 - £238,500) as set out below.

	Rental income	
	2021	2020
	£	£
Receipts due in:		
Less than 1 year	83,000	82,000
Between 1 and 2 years	73,500	83,000
Between 3 and 5 years	-	73,500
	<u>156,500</u>	<u>238,500</u>

22 Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2021, the group had future lease payments of £27,534 (2020 - £45,995) payable under non-cancellable operating leases as set out below.

	Office Equipment	
Payments due in:	2021	2020
	£	£
Less than 1 year	16,422	18,462
Between 1 and 2 years	10,463	16,422
Between 3 and 5 years	649	11,111
	<u>27,534</u>	<u>45,995</u>

23 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

None of the Trustees received either remuneration or reimbursed expenditure during this financial year or the last financial year.

The total amount of donations received from the Trustees or their companies during the year was £1,243 (2020: £4,770). Trustees also supported the Charity's fundraising events. The total amount received from Trustees or their companies during the year from tickets and other purchases in support of the Charity's fundraising events was £2,540 (2020: £850).

During the year, as permitted and subject to strict protocols, the Group entered into the following arrangements in which the following Trustees had an interest:

Legal fees of £3,000 (2020: £11,941) payable to Howard Kennedy LLP, a firm of which Mr Jason Lewis is a consultant.

In addition, during the year, as permitted and subject to strict protocols, the Group paid:

The Neil Drover Agency nil (2020: £3,300) for rent and other services. Mr Neil Drover, who is a past regional chairman and committee member, is a proprietor of that business.

At the year end the following were owed to Variety for the purchase of tickets to a fundraising event.

Palace Capital Plc £390 (2020: nil) Mr Neil Sinclair is a shareholder of this company.

Transactions and balances between the Charity and its trading subsidiary, Variety Events Limited, are set out in the notes to the accounts (see notes 2 and 10).

VARIETY THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 209259

Accounts

Annual report and accounts 2020



the children's charity

improving young lives every day

Annual Report and Accounts 2020

Year ended 31 December 2020

Chief Barker's report

I am delighted to present our 2020 Annual Report and Accounts.

I would like to begin by highlighting that Variety exists to improve the lives of disabled and disadvantaged children and young people, up to the age of nineteen throughout the UK by providing tangible, practical help in the following four ways:

- The provision of specially adapted, accessible transport in the form of Variety Sunshine Coaches;
- Customised wheelchair grants;
- Specialist equipment grants which support a child's development or ability to self-care; and
- Memorable experiences in the form of Variety Great Days Out, providing educational and fun day trips.

Variety has been very proud to support its own Children's Hospital at the Kings College Hospital in London. It is recognised as one of the world's leading children's liver and kidney transplant facilities.

The unexpected arrival of the pandemic in 2020 was both unprecedented and extremely challenging, particularly due to the curtailment of our traditional fundraising events due to the pandemic.

The continued impact of Covid-19 being acutely felt by families of disabled and disadvantaged children, meant our services were never more needed.

Although there was much discussion at Board and senior management level about how best to protect our Charity during the pandemic, foremost in our mind was how to ensure some continued level of service to our beneficiaries.

A prime example of how we responded to this challenge was the development of our Sensory Kits Project. In March 2020, as the Coronavirus pandemic spread throughout the UK, schools and colleges closed their doors. Children of key workers and those with the most profound and multiple learning disabilities were still able to access some form of education provision, but most students, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), were sent home. With daily routines, familiar activities, established care-givers and regular support strategies disrupted, thousands of parents were left without the tools and support to adequately meet the sensory needs of their children. This is where Variety stepped in.

Variety's Covid-19 response programme enabled the distribution of over 1,000 sensory kits to the families who needed them most. The scheme provided tangible, in-home support to children with SEND, living in some of the most deprived areas of the UK. The impact of this initiative has been extraordinary and our special thanks go to DPD, Variety Golf, and St James's Place Foundation who generously funded this programme.

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Regardless of the pandemic we still managed to deliver 41 of our iconic Sunshine Coaches to schools and other organisations across the UK.

In 2020, we also spent over £1.9m on the provision of 5,073 grants and gifts to disabled and disadvantaged children. In total we supported 15,203 children and young people to receive better care, to improve their mobility, independence, wellbeing, and access to education and to be able to better cope with the pressures of the Covid-19 pandemic. Please refer to page 8 'Impact of our Programmes' to read more about our fantastic achievements.

I could not conclude this report without mentioning the sad passing of Trevor Green in 2020, a key Variety supporter and Trustee for many years.

Trevor was introduced to Variety in 2010, and in 2014 he was appointed Chief Barker. In this capacity, amongst many other notable highlights, included being jointly responsible with a previous Chief Barker for setting up the Patrons Programme which has enjoyed great success ever since. He also enthusiastically involved himself in as many fundraising opportunities with the Charity as possible during his time as a Trustee, including being on the Annual Dinner and Ball Committee for many years.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank our supporters, staff, and volunteers across the UK, without whom we would not be able to make such a difference to the lives of disabled and disadvantaged children.

I look forward to Variety emerging from the pandemic stronger than ever, and able to continue in full our vital life changing work.

Dilaram Kitchlew-Williamson
Chief Barker and Chair of Trustees 2021

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TRUSTEES 2021

Variety, the Children's Charity

- Malcolm Brenner
- Anthony Harris
- Jason Lewis
- Tesula Mohindra (appointed 29th April 2021)
- Ronnie Nathan
- Tushar Prabhu
- Stanley A Salter
- Professor Jonathan Shalit OBE
- Neil Sinclair
- Pamela Sinclair
- Dilaram Kitchlew-Williamson

Acting Chief Executive

Conrad Hollingsworth

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Secretary and registered office:

Stanley A Salter
Variety House
93 Bayham Street
London
NW1 0AG

Charity number:

209259 (England and Wales)
SC038505 (Scotland)

Company number:

509811 (England and Wales)

Auditors:

Saffery Champness LLP
71 Queen Victoria Street
London
EC4V 4BE

Bankers:

NatWest
2nd Floor, Argyll House
246 Regent Street
London
W1B 3PB

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Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2020

The Trustees submit their Annual Report and Financial Statements of Variety, the Children's Charity (Variety or the Charity), a company limited by guarantee, for the year ended 31 December 2020. The Trustees' Annual Report includes the Directors' Report for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity has 10 Trustees, who are elected every 3 years, with one third due for re-election each year. Trustees cannot serve for more than 9 years. They convene at least four times each year. There is a supporting committee covering Audit, Finance and Risk which also convenes at least four times each year.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the Charity.

On appointment, Trustees sign a register of interests, which is renewed annually. At each meeting, Trustees are asked to declare any conflicts of interest.

Trustees' induction and ongoing involvement includes visits to the activities delivered by the Charity and presentations of Sunshine Coaches, wheelchairs and other equipment, engagement with beneficiaries, meetings with programme staff, senior staff, volunteers and stakeholders, including funders and corporate supporters.

The Trustees are responsible for governance, strategy, risk management, setting headline objectives and monitoring performance against these objectives. To this end, Trustees receive regular updates, including full reports on activities, targets, impact and financial information, including management accounts on a quarterly basis. Business plans and strategic plans are discussed, agreed, amended and revised by the Trustees at Board meetings.

To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority, within the terms of delegation approved by the Trustees, for the operational matters of the Charity.

The Chief Executive reports on performance against the strategic and operational plans approved by the Board and meets with the Chair on a regular basis.

The Chief Executive has responsibility for recruitment and management of the Senior Management Team to ensure that programmes and values are delivered and upheld against plans and priorities agreed by the Board. The Senior Management Team has experience in charity communications and marketing, charity programmes, fundraising, finance, HR and operations and meets on a regular basis with the Chief Executive to discuss operations and strategy.

The Trustees and staff are supported in the business of the Charity by a number of volunteers. There are 134 volunteers known as "Barkers". The Chair of Trustees, elected annually for a term of one year, is known as the Chief Barker. Each year, the Trustees elect a number of Barkers to a standing committee (known as "Crew") whose focus is on fundraising, the development of new events and furthering the mission of the Charity.

The Trustees during the year were:

Malcolm Brenner, Laurence Davis (resigned 5th June 2020), Trevor Green (deceased 30th April 2020), Anthony Harris, Jason Lewis, James Martin (resigned 30th September 2020), Ronnie Nathan, Tushar Prabhu, Stanley A Salter, William Sangster (resigned 5th June 2020), Professor Jonathan Shalit OBE, Neil Sinclair, Pamela Sinclair, Harold Tillman CBE (resigned 5th June 2020), Dilaram Kitchlew-Williamson.

History

Variety was formed in the US in 1927 in Pittsburgh, inspired by an abandoned baby, Catherine Variety Sheridan, found in Sheridan's Theatre. After a press campaign to find her mother, a material need was recognised and the "Variety Club" was formed with the first meeting in a circus tent, hence the terminology of 'Tents' and 'Barkers'. The Charity was created in the UK in 1949 following a dinner at The Savoy hosted by HRH, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

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Employees and volunteers

Variety employs 23 people (both full-time and part-time) in its offices across England and Scotland. The Charity depends on the commitment and hard work of these staff, who are highly valued. Traditionally, Variety is a volunteer-run charity and relies heavily on volunteer involvement for the running of its many events, including fundraising events and Variety Great Days Out. The Trustees are enormously indebted to these volunteers for their continued support.

Volunteers assist us in a diverse range of roles and activities, at many levels, and throughout the UK. For example, volunteers serve on committees across England and Scotland, for the following aspects of the Charity's activities:

- Events
- Fundraising
- Programmes
- Special projects

Management remuneration policy

The Chief Executive is appointed by the Trustees. All other key management personnel are appointed by the Chief Executive.

Appointments at this level take into account the following factors:

- The Charity's ability to pay the wages of senior staff
- The types of skills, experiences and competencies the Charity needs from its senior staff and the scope of the role being recruited
- The Charity's objectives and the number and nature of senior staff needed to fulfil these
- The impact of market rates on appointments.

Equal opportunities

Variety is committed to the principle and practice of equal opportunities and aims to be an equal opportunities employer. Variety's employment policy aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, disability, national origin, race, religion and sex or any other grounds which are unjustifiable in terms of equality of opportunity for all.

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Objectives and activities

The legal objects of the Charity, as set out in the Memorandum of Association, the governing document of Variety, are as follows:

- to promote and provide for the care and upbringing of sick, disabled and disadvantaged children up to the age of nineteen within the United Kingdom
- the advancement of education and the relief of financial need of children within the United Kingdom
- to undertake, and to assist others to undertake, research into any illness or affliction affecting children which will advance knowledge and to publish the useful results of such research
- the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation for children in the interests of their social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for such children.

Meeting our objectives through Variety's work

When statutory funding cannot adequately meet a child's needs and a family's own resources cannot stretch far enough, Variety steps in to provide grant funding and memorable experiences for children and young people living with disability or disadvantage wherever they are in the UK. We recognise that each child's situation is unique and so adopt a broad definition of disadvantage to include children and young people living in poverty, looked after children, young carers, children and young people living with long term sickness.

Variety provides grants across five areas of need to eligible individuals and organisations:

1. Manual, powered and sports wheelchairs;
2. Assistive technology such as car seats, profile beds, sensory equipment, adapted bathroom equipment, tough furniture, walking frames, monitors and more;
3. Non-Assistive equipment such as sports equipment, interactive whiteboards and outdoor play equipment to schools and youth clubs;
4. Accessible transport in the form of our Sunshine Coaches;
5. Special capital build projects such as playgrounds or sensory spaces for schools and hospitals.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, our priority in 2020 was to meet the immediate needs of children through providing grants to individuals while confined to home. To meet this demand, we temporarily reduced our support for not-for-profit statutory and voluntary organisations such as schools, hospices, hospitals, youth clubs and community organisations with charitable, Community Interest Company (CIC) or other appropriate status.

Our grant giving programmes improve children and young people's mental and physical wellbeing, reduce loneliness and social isolation, enable independence and mobility, increase participation in sport, contribute to sustained improvements in health and physical development and more.

Applications for individual grants can be made by parents, carers, healthcare professionals or young people themselves. The child or young person for whom the grant application is being made must be 18 or under at the point at which the grant is approved, a permanent resident of the UK and have a recognised disability or long-term health condition. Eligibility for funding is then based on Variety's assessment of the family's financial situation, the frequency of use, the family's ability to cover maintenance costs, safe storage, and the availability of funding from other sources.

Each grant application is initially screened by our staff to ensure it falls within the Charity's funding guidelines. It is then passed to a committee of volunteers for assessment which is conducted either by an in-person visit or over-the-phone. When Variety launched its sensory kit grants in April 2020, we received 1,541 applications for support. In order to process these quickly, phone assessments and approvals were undertaken by staff and volunteer support, with most grants approved and despatched within 4 weeks of application.

In total, the Charity received 1,850 applications for support, almost four times as many as in 2019. 1,212 applications were approved for support, 121 were carried forward for approval in 2021 and a further 21 applications were withdrawn before a funding decision was reached. Only 27% of applications were declined; 25% because funding was not available and 2% because they did not meet our eligibility criteria.

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In addition to our grant-giving programmes, Variety usually also provides memorable and valuable childhood experiences through our Variety Great Days Out programme. The programme aims to improve wellbeing in children and young people by reducing social isolation and increasing participation in previously inaccessible experiences. We do this by removing barriers to opportunities, by building social skills and increasing confidence. In short, these trips out are of the kind that most children take for granted but which our beneficiaries may not otherwise have the chance to enjoy or participate in. Due to the pandemic, this programme was postponed for the majority of 2020, with only a small distribution of gifts possible.

Providing high quality, practical, bespoke equipment solutions, and educational experiences through memorable activities, remains Variety's fundamental objective.

The impact of our programmes

In 2020, we spent over £1.9m on the provision of 5,073 grants and gifts to disabled and disadvantaged children. In total we supported 15,203 children and young people to receive better care, to improve their mobility, independence, wellbeing, and access to education and to be able to better cope with the pressures of the Covid-19 pandemic. 87% of our grants directly supported children and young people with autism spectrum conditions (ASC) or a learning disability; those who struggled most to make sense of the changes to their routine or understand what was happening in the world around them.

In the midst of the national lockdown which dominated so much of the year, Variety continued to provide tangible, practical support to make an immediate difference to the lives of disabled children. The number of individual grant recipients were 1,162. At the same time, and in the face of long delays to the supply chain, we maintained our commitment to providing accessible transport, by providing 41 new Sunshine Coaches in time for schools returning at the end of the year. On average, we provided 23 grants each week.

Our 1,162 individual equipment grants for essential assistive technology included:

- 1,053 for in-home sensory equipment at an average of £98 each, totalling £102,673.

- 89 for other types of equipment relating to care, mobility, and wellbeing at an average of £2,229 each, totalling £198,528.
- 20 wheelchair grants at an average of £4,558 each, totalling £91,046.

The impact of the lockdown on children with SEND was extreme. During the first wave of the pandemic, with the death rate in England for people with a learning disability up to 6 times higher than in the general population¹, thousands of families were shielding. The pressure of disrupted routines, the pervading sense of fear and the overnight halt in regular support services (including school) meant that many families struggled to cope. Variety's grant-giving programmes were more in demand than ever before.

The 5 Innowalks we funded meant that shielding children with neurological conditions such as cerebral palsy could develop their muscle tone without the need to go outdoors. The 22 car seats we funded provided a lifeline for children with brain injuries, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, and other conditions. For many, a short drive each day was the only time they left home and while the movement of the car was often therapeutic, these trips also provided a short respite for carers and siblings. Our 10 grants for outdoor play equipment supported children with needs stemming from paralysis to autism and genetic conditions such as Down's Syndrome to mental health complications.

Isabella, 6, lives in Northern Ireland and received a jungle gym to help her manage her extreme anxiety.

Isabella's mum explains:

"The entire frame, including swings, trapeze, monkey bars, climbing rope, ladders and slide, is beyond all our expectations. The swinging motion from the swings also helps regulate her, so she can process information more easily.

The trapeze bars, rope, climbing apparatus and slide are helping greatly to improve her gross motor skills, her balance, her vestibular and proprioceptive senses; improve her coordination, develop her muscles, and core strength. The jungle gym is giving her and her twin lots of fun and laughs! It's brilliant for distracting her when she's exasperated, frustrated or feeling anxious, as it greatly calms her."

Variety, the Children's Charity

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/people-with-learning-disabilities-had-higher-death-rate-from-Covid-19>

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Variety's sensory equipment proved a huge success as we distributed over 1,000 sensory kits provided to children with SEND across the UK. While principally designed to help children with autism spectrum condition, ADHD, and sensory processing disorder, they provided benefit to anyone whose learning disability made regulating their sensory inputs difficult. Of the 1,053 children who received a sensory equipment grant from Variety:

- 72% were better able to self soothe and manage their anxiety levels better. This rose to 85% for children and young people with ADHD.
- 75 % were able to engage with their parents more positively and 53% were better able to engage with their siblings.
- 56% were better able to cope with changes to their routine during the Covid-19 lockdowns.

Not all the children Variety supports have sensory meltdowns but for those who do, 49% reported fewer meltdowns as a result of their sensory equipment and a further 24% reported that episodes are now much shorter since having the equipment to manage them more easily. Overall, 88% of recipients reported 5 or more positive outcomes as a result of their grant from Variety.

Bob, whose son, Zac, has ASC, sensory processing disorder and anxiety told us:
"Meltdowns used to occur when we tried to stop Zac biting and pinching himself. Now he wears a tangle toy and a chewy toy, so he goes straight for them instead of hurting himself."
Khalid, whose eight-year-old son, Ali, has sensory processing disorder and anxiety adds
"The kit has helped give Ali something to share with his sister. They use the sensory light to have a bedtime disco together – instead of arguing and hitting each other! Our neighbours have noticed that Ali isn't screeching as much as he used to, and he is sleeping more. His morning meltdowns have been later than his usual 4 – 5am time slot."

So much of our work is about developing independence. Jane, whose nine-year-old daughter, Alicia, has sensory processing disorder, amongst other conditions told us:
"When she starts getting agitated, Alicia sits on the wobble cushion and rocks, whilst listening to her own music and squishing the sensory ball. This has contributed hugely to Alicia having fewer sensory meltdowns, as this

new combination of sensory input works for her. It's even better that she's self-identified it. It's very empowering for her that she knows what she can do to help herself. We had no idea that it would be so effective in calming her in this way too!"

98% of the sensory kits we provided were still being used months later and, for families who we couldn't provide grants to Variety published a 12-page guide on how to make your own sensory kit at home. This had a reach of over 20,000 families.

For children and young people whose primary need is to be independently mobile, the impact of a Variety funded wheelchair, whether powered or manual, is extraordinary.

Andrew is 16 years old and lives in Hampshire. He has Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) which means that he lives with intense, ongoing pain. He also has allodynia in his right foot and can't walk without using crutches or a wheelchair. With only a basic, heavy (20kg) self-propelled wheelchair which he struggled to manage, he kept crashing into trees. It was totally unsuitable, and he was desperate for a suitable wheelchair for college.

He tells us:

"Sometimes I feel like my foot is on fire or like there is a spot inside me trying to explode. All the pain has caused me a lot of trauma and my mental health took a nosedive. I have lost all childhood memories, and can only remember things since May 2019, which is when we got my therapy cat, Lucas".

The lightweight active wheelchair which Variety funded has seen Andrew being able to do fitness sessions in his chair while stuck at home.

He goes on to say:

"This new chair is making a significant difference to my independence, and it has certainly made a difference to my mindset. Pushing is so much easier due to the chair being so much lighter than any previous chair I have had – this is where I notice the biggest difference – as well as the fact that it fits me properly. I use the wheelchair in the home, to help me to cook, to move around the house, to be more independent and to get fitter".

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The 52 other equipment grants that Variety provided for eating assistants, orthopaedic seating, profile beds, hoists, specialist baths, lifts and other specialist assistive devices enabled children to be better cared for at home, to sleep more safely, to communicate more easily, to provide self-care more independently and to improve their physical development. Andrew's story highlights the important role that our mental health plays in our wellbeing and Variety is proud to have provided 3,857 children with a memorable gift such as tickets to Disney's The Lion King & Disney on Ice, specialist teddy bears, Easter Eggs and Christmas presents. For children living in poverty, young carers, looked after children and those facing other forms of financial disadvantage, Variety's gift may, sadly, be one of the only presents they receive each year.

Most grants (69%) were provided to children of primary school age or younger, with 25% going to young people of secondary school age and 6% to young people aged 17+.

The Charity also continued to supply accessible transport in the form of our Sunshine Coaches, adding 41 new vehicles to the 900 already on the road. They offer hassle-free accessible transport solutions to schools and voluntary sector organisations. In 2020, 8,360 children and young people benefited from:

- 29 Sunshine Coach grants to SEND schools and units supporting 4,381 children and totalling £954,456.
- 6 Sunshine Coach grants to mainstream schools and voluntary organisations working with 2,777 children living in poverty, totalling £214,357.
- 6 Sunshine Coach grants to voluntary sector organisations supporting 1,202 children and young people with SEND, totalling £207,147.

Sunshine Coaches, each with an average lifespan of 12 – 15 years, enable disabled children to travel with their non-disabled friends. They open up sporting and outdoor education opportunities and during this difficult year have helped schools to stay in touch with families who need their help, delivering resources or food parcels when times get tough. As children return to school with an even greater need for sports and fitness programmes and for accessing the community,

these new Sunshine Coaches are vital. Community access is essential in preparing children with disabilities for the transition into adulthood. Our Coaches also provide access to outdoor learning experiences that would otherwise be inaccessible. Outdoor Play enables children with complex learning disabilities to explore, experiment, develop risk-taking behaviours and build their cardiovascular endurance as well as contributing to fine and gross motor development.

Jenner Park School in South Wales received a 17 seat Coach at the end of 2020. The school has a special resource unit for 24 children with additional needs including Downs Syndrome, ADHD, Epilepsy, Autism, Dysphagia, Hypermobility, Cystic Fibrosis and more.

David Morris, Headteacher of Jenner Park, told us that:

"The new Sunshine Coach will help [our] children to access the practical aspects of learning which are essential for children with complex needs. Our coach [makes] education more fun and exciting through visits to areas within the locality of the school which the children would find it difficult to walk to and also to venues further away which the children may never have otherwise accessed."

Alongside our Sunshine Coaches, a small number of grants were also made to organisations for life saving equipment and for equipment which significantly enhanced children's wellbeing. 1,824 children and young people benefited from this vital equipment, donated to schools and community organisations, made up of:

- 7 grants to support the active participation in sports and play of 693 children with special educational needs and disabilities, at an average of £3,372 each, totalling £22,619.
- 3 grants to support 922 children with the sensory equipment they need to regulate their behaviour and to support their development, at an average of £4,858 each, totalling £14,575.
- 2 grants to NHS trusts supporting the development of children with neurological conditions and the rehabilitation of children with cancer. Grants totalled £8,388.

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In total, our equipment grants reached children and young people with over 250 different conditions in over 400 towns, cities, and villages across all four nations of the UK.

Fundraising Activities

Variety typically does not receive government or statutory funding/contracts and is therefore greatly dependent on voluntary funds from our varied supporters. We adopt an ethical, and transparent approach to our fundraising, and we are a proud member of the Fundraising Regulatory Scheme and the Institute of Fundraising and adhere to all their relevant standards. We did not use the services of professional fundraisers in 2020, nor did we carry out any 'face to face' fundraising in the year.

During the 2020 financial year we also did not receive any complaints regarding our fundraising activities, but in the event of receiving any complaints of this nature, we follow a strict complaints procedure.

This year was an extremely difficult one with the impact of the pandemic curtailing our usual fundraising activities. However, with our never say die spirit, we still managed to achieve a great deal. The following are some notable examples of that work:

We were grateful to our DPD corporate for its kind donations totalling more than £185k towards our Sunshine Coaches and Sensory Kits Programmes.

Other funders of our Sensory Kits Programme included St James's Place Charitable Foundation and Variety Golf. This programme made a huge difference to vulnerable children particularly affected by the pandemic (please see page 9 for further information).

Crest Nicholson carried on supporting us by raising more than £89k towards our general charitable work. This year it included a £20k unrestricted donation which was gratefully received.

Variety received a £110K donation from the National Lottery Covid-Response Project to support the delivery of urgently needed specialist equipment to 23 disabled and disadvantaged children across the UK.

We re-launched our successful Patrons Programme, with the newly appointed dynamic duo of Michael Josephson MBE (Chair) and his Vice Chair Andrew Geddes. We secured 4 patrons, each pledging £10k for three years, giving an impressive £120k of unrestricted income over that period.

St. James's Place Charitable Foundation continued their kind support with a £128,500 donation towards our Sunshine Coaches Programme.

Our Yorkshire 2020 Property Awards Event took place virtually, and our guests and sponsors kindly donated 80% of their paid monies – which generated more than £130k.

We also benefitted from our legacies work by receiving legacies of more than £347k. This is an area where we believe further investment is appropriate and should generate future income in the long term.

We hope to be able to return to more of our traditional fundraising events in future, whilst also continuing to revive our existing income pipelines (trusts and foundations, corporates, and community fundraising) and explore and implement other fundraising initiatives.

Financial review

The financial statements cover the activities of Variety, the Children's Charity, and its trading subsidiary, Variety Events Limited, for the year ended 31 December 2020. The results are set out on page 20.

A summary of the results of the subsidiary is set out in note two to the financial statements.

Incoming resources decreased by 52% to £3,667,806 over the previous year (2019: £7,663,408). Of this, £386,343 was generated through the trading subsidiary (2019: £2,179,592). Donations received totalled £2,776,844 (2019: £4,484,725) and legacy income was £347,874 (2019: £70,939). Donated goods and services income was £54,721 (2019: £828,610) including Variety Great Days Out of £54,721 (2019: £397,388) being gift-in-kind value placed on donated outings and small gifts given for children under this programme.

During the year, expenditure on charitable activities was £2,338,192 (2019: £4,536,508) of which £1,509,134 was applied for the purchase of Sunshine Coaches, £193,158 for electric wheelchairs and £495,579 for grants to

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individuals principally for the purchase of specialist care or sensory play adaptive equipment, children's hospitals, and other organisations to help children who are disabled or living with financial disadvantage. £140,321 was applied to Variety Great Days Out activities.

Financial position and reserves policy

Variety's charitable giving commitments are conditional upon the raising of specific funds.

The deficit in the year before loss on investments of £155,838 (2019: surplus £257,443) comprised a surplus on unrestricted funds of £77,522 (2019: deficit £21,107) and deficit on restricted funds of £233,360 (2019: surplus £278,550). The deficit on restricted funds results from monies received in 2019 for specific purposes, but spent in 2020.

Like all charitable organisations, Variety must retain unrestricted reserves to allow the Charity to meet its ongoing commitments and bridge any unforeseen gaps between the spending and receiving of income. The Trustees had set a target for unrestricted reserves of four months' operating and administration costs by the end of 2020, currently circa £500,000. Despite the Covid-19 outbreak, this target was achieved. Unrestricted reserves are monitored quarterly by the Trustees.

At the end of the year, unrestricted funds were £2,750,704, of which fixed assets, net of the mortgage secured on our head office and Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan (CBILS) represented £2,077,728. Thus unrestricted free reserves at 31 December 2020 amounted to £672,976, which is more than the Charity's target for 2020.

The total funds of the Charity at 31st December 2020 were £3,696,756 including cash of £1,721,135, which has increased by £10,177 over the year.

The majority of the working capital is in restricted funds reflecting the Charity's commitment to fund as many Sunshine Coaches, wheelchairs and other charitable

commitments as practically possible (as fully set out in note 17).

The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected cashflows and income and expenditure for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least a year from the date the accounts are signed. They have also specifically considered the likely impact of Covid-19 on the Charity and its finances. The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity will be able to continue in business and meet its liabilities as they fall due. The accounts have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

Investment policy

The Charity's primary investment objective is to maintain the value of its investments. The Charity does not hold long term cash investments. Since 1998 the Charity has owned the freehold interest in a commercial office building from which its Head Office operates and of which 35.51 per cent is sublet. The investment value as at 31 December 2020 of the sublet property, based upon a valuation on 23 March 2021 by Robert Irving Burns Property Consultants, is £1,620,000. All income arising from it is unrestricted income.

In addition, certain office car parking spaces that form part of the curtilage of the freehold office building are rented out on a short term basis.

The Charity's commercial activities are undertaken by its wholly owned subsidiary, Variety Events Limited with all profits donated under Gift Aid to the Charity.

Principal risks and uncertainties

There are a number of risks and uncertainties that can impact on the performance of the Charity, some of which are beyond the control of Trustees.

The Audit, Finance and Risk Committee meets and assesses the major risks to which Variety is exposed.

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Key risks identified were as follows:

- Insufficient level of unrestricted income
- The level of income could fall noticeably, whether from donations or trading subsidiary activities (which includes non-return of traditional Variety Events).

Following a comprehensive production of a forward/recovery plan (which included scenario planning, sensitivity analysis and risk assessment exercises) it was agreed by the Board to invest in Variety's fundraising capability at this time, which included investment in key fundraising teams. This also included consideration of more virtual/online fundraising activities, and agreement to the re-development of our website, with a focus on this being a far more effective income generation tool.

Variety's Crew Committee is developing new and innovative ideas to generate unrestricted income. A prime example of this was a Crew member developing a fundraising App called Kynder. Kynder Company Ltd selected Variety, as its charity partner and agreed to support Variety through a fundraising tool via the development and implementation of an app. We are positive about the potential of this app in raising much needed unrestricted income if we can achieve the scale of usage required.

Circumstances allowing, we also have our garden parties fundraising initiative ready to implement, which will also bolster unrestricted income. We will continue to explore/implement initiatives of this nature.

In the event of us once again experiencing a considerable drop in income whether from donations or trading subsidiary activities, the total of grants committed will have to be reduced. Since grants are paid once the money becomes available, there is limited risk of financial exposure to the Charity.

Variety also operates effective and extensive financial management which includes: an annual planning and budgeting system with an annual budget approved by the Trustees; reforecasting, at a minimum, quarterly and all significant budget variations are subject to Trustee approval.

Impact of COVID - 19 on our organisation

The continued impact of the global pandemic and subsequent UK national lockdowns meant careful planning and implementation of the following:

- Reduced expenditure wherever possible to protect our cash which included taking advantage of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, to enable staff to be retained in the Charity and to reduce our overall costs.
- The voluntary departure of staff members who obtained alternative employment, reduced immediate financial pressures.

We carried out a comprehensive sensitivity analysis and scenario planning exercise which included three detailed scenarios (worst, medium and best case) for consideration by the Board. The scenarios included detailed budgets and associating staffing structures. This will enable us to pivot our strategy as circumstances allow.

We once again looked at the feasibility of introducing various fundraising activities and initiatives to replace predicted income loss.

In carrying out a review of our service delivery, with the aim to highlight to our beneficiaries the new constraints we were working within due to the pandemic, we implemented an appropriate communication strategy to notify stakeholders of the new constraints.

In ensuring the health and well-being of our staff we carried out the following actions:

- Observed Government guidance and implemented the ability for all staff, where possible, to work from home.
- Those with health needs/child or other caring responsibilities were afforded extra flexibility, care, and attention.

Plans for the future

In the coming year we will work our way back from the challenges of Covid-19, both financially and in how we deliver our services within the constraints of social distancing measures.

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We will continue to take advantage of government and other grants available e.g., the Furlough Scheme, and Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS), to enable vital investment in key areas (e.g., fundraising).

In the latter part of the year we anticipate being able to re-introduce our existing fundraising income pipelines with the re-introduction of our corporate, trust and foundation, and community fundraising teams. The introduction of an additional virtual events fundraising officer at this time is also felt appropriate given the current climate. Emphasis and priority will be given to ensuring fundraising capability in the Charity going forward.

We will develop our services and fundraising events to meet the new requirements. We will also increase our use of digital technologies by commissioning an external partner to aid us in the complete re-development of our website, with an emphasis on utilising our revamped website as a credible tool for raising income and exploring potential e-commerce functionality.

We anticipate to be able to re-introduce our traditional event activity (within the constraints of the social distancing measures) in the last three to four months of the year, especially due to the success of the vaccination program.

Our focus will also be on the growth of our Corporate and Trust and Foundation income streams, with the re-introduction of staff teams to maximise our fundraising capability in these considered growth areas.

The impact of the above work will enable Variety to re-emerge from the pandemic in a satisfactory condition, ready to continue and build on its vital work in the coming years.

Auditors

Saffery Champness LLP have expressed their willingness to remain in office as auditors of the company.

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Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Variety, the Children's Charity, for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law 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 charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group 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 (FRS 102);
- 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 charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, relating to small companies.

This report of the Trustees, was approved by the Board of Trustees on 30th June 2021, and is signed as authorised on its behalf by:

.....
Stanley A Salter

.....
Date

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Independent auditor's report to the Trustees and members

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Variety, the Children's Charity (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the group and the parent charitable company as at 31 December 2020 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - property valuation

We draw attention to Note 9 to the financial statements, which describes the material valuation uncertainty expressed by the external valuers of the parent charitable company's investment property. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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Other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report which includes the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 15, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group and the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under the Companies Act 2006 and under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the group and parent financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are detailed below.

Identifying and assessing risks related to irregularities:

We assessed the susceptibility of the group and parent charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company by discussions with trustees, and updating our understanding of the sector in which the group and parent charitable company operate.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the group and parent charitable company include the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

Audit response to risks identified:

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the parent charitable company's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the parent charitable company's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at:

www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the parent charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the parent charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the parent charitable company's members and trustees those matters we are

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required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the parent charitable company, the parent charitable company's members and trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

.....
Liz Hazell (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of Saffery Champness LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

71 Queen Victoria Street
London
EC4V 4BE

Date:

Saffery Champness LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2020	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and expenditure						
Income from:						
Donations and legacies						
	771,227	2,005,617	2,776,844	1,051,529	3,433,196	4,484,725
	332,874	15,000	347,874	27,576	43,363	70,939
3	-	54,721	54,721	-	828,610	828,610
Other trading activities						
2	182,974	203,369	386,343	1,709,707	469,885	2,179,592
Investments						
	101,916	-	101,916	99,513	-	99,513
	108	-	108	29	-	29
Total	1,389,099	2,278,707	3,667,806	2,888,354	4,775,054	7,663,408
5 Expenditure on:						
5	1,033,148	452,304	1,485,452	2,426,844	442,613	2,869,457
	1,033,148	452,304	1,485,452	2,426,844	442,613	2,869,457
5 Charitable activities						
	25,158	1,483,976	1,509,134	-	2,401,284	2,401,284
	89,765	103,393	193,158	138,263	368,679	506,942
	108,545	387,034	495,579	155,780	830,502	986,282
	54,961	85,360	140,321	188,574	453,426	642,000
	278,429	2,059,763	2,338,192	482,617	4,053,891	4,536,508
Total	1,311,577	2,512,067	3,823,644	2,909,461	4,496,504	7,405,965
Net (expenditure)/ income before loss on investments	77,522	(233,360)	(155,838)	(21,107)	278,550	257,443
9 Net loss on investments	(115,000)	-	(115,000)	-	-	-
Net (expenditure)/ income before transfers	(37,478)	(233,360)	(270,838)	(21,107)	278,550	257,443
14 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	81,639	(81,639)	-
Net movement in funds	(37,478)	(233,360)	(270,838)	60,532	196,911	257,443
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	2,788,182	1,179,412	3,967,594	2,727,650	982,501	3,710,151
14 Total funds carried forward	2,750,704	946,052	3,696,756	2,788,182	1,179,412	3,967,594

All amounts relate to continuing activities.

All recognised gains and losses are included in the consolidated statement of financial activities.

The notes on pages 24 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

Notes	2020	2019
	£	£
Fixed assets		
8 Tangible assets	1,681,992	1,719,952
9 Investments	<u>1,620,000</u>	<u>1,735,000</u>
	3,301,992	3,454,952
Current assets		
10 Debtors	408,236	511,182
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>1,721,135</u>	<u>1,710,958</u>
	2,129,371	2,222,140
11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>581,028</u>	<u>735,134</u>
Net current assets	1,548,343	1,487,006
Total assets less current liabilities	4,850,335	4,941,958
12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	1,153,579	974,364
Total net assets	3,696,756	3,967,594
The funds of the group:		
14 Restricted income funds	946,052	1,179,412
14 Unrestricted funds	<u>2,750,704</u>	<u>2,788,182</u>
Total group funds	3,696,756	3,967,594

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The parent charity has taken advantage of the legal dispensation not to present its own income and expenditure account as permitted under Section 408(3) of the Companies Act 2006. The charity's net expenditure for the year was £270,838 (2019: net income of £257,443)

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 30th June 2021.

Trustees

Stanley A Salter

Dilaram Kitchlew-Williamson

The notes on pages 24 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

Notes	2020	2019
	£	£
Fixed assets		
8 Tangible assets	1,681,992	1,719,952
9 Investments	<u>1,620,100</u>	<u>1,735,100</u>
	3,302,092	3,455,052
Current assets		
10 Debtors	841,460	1,099,664
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>1,110,134</u>	<u>938,698</u>
	1,951,594	2,038,362
11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>403,351</u>	<u>551,456</u>
Net current assets	1,548,243	1,486,906
Total assets less current liabilities	4,850,335	4,941,958
12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	1,153,579	974,364
Total net assets	3,696,756	3,967,594
The funds of the charity:		
14 Restricted income funds	946,052	1,179,412
14 Unrestricted funds	<u>2,750,704</u>	<u>2,788,182</u>
Total charity funds	3,696,756	3,967,594

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 30th June 2021.

Trustees

Stanley A Salter

Dilaram Kitchlew-Williamson

The notes on pages 24 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

Notes	2020	2019
	£	£
20 Net cash (used in)/ provided by operating activities	(295,226)	246,762
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	102,024	99,542
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<u>(3,274)</u>	<u>(20,156)</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>98,750</u>	<u>79,386</u>
Cash flow from financing activities:		
Repayments of borrowing	(18,347)	(41,039)
Cash inflows from new borrowings	<u>250,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>231,653</u>	<u>(41,039)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	35,177	285,109
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	1,710,958	1,425,849
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u>1,746,135</u>	<u>1,710,958</u>

Analysis of changes in net debt

2020

	At start of year	Cash-flows	Transfers	At end of year
	£	£	£	£
Cash	1,710,958	10,177	-	1,721,135
Loans falling due within one year	(43,347)	18,347	(45,785)	(70,785)
Loans falling due after more than one year	<u>(974,364)</u>	<u>(225,000)</u>	45,785	<u>(1,153,579)</u>
Total	<u>693,247</u>	<u>(196,476)</u>	-	<u>496,771</u>

2019

	At start of year	Cash-flows	Transfers	At end of year
	£	£	£	£
Cash	1,425,849	285,109	-	1,710,958
Loans falling due within one year	(41,039)	41,039	(43,347)	(43,347)
Loans falling due after more than one year	<u>(1,017,711)</u>	-	43,347	<u>(974,364)</u>
Total	<u>367,099</u>	<u>326,148</u>	-	<u>693,247</u>

The notes on pages 24 to 35 form part of these financial statements.

1 Accounting Policies

- 1.1 The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, subject to the revaluation of freehold and investment property and are in accordance with applicable accounting standard (FRS 102), and Charities SORP (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

Variety, the Children's Charity (Variety) is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales.

Variety meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected cashflows and income and expenditure for the foreseeable future, being a period of at least a year from the date the accounts are signed. The Trustees having taken advantage of Government and other grants, have a reasonable expectation that the charity will be able to continue in business and meet its liabilities as they fall due. The accounts have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

1.2 Income and expenditure

All incoming resources, including legacies and governments grants, are recognised as income when Variety is entitled to the income, that it is probable the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis and includes irrecoverable VAT. Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Grants payable are charged in the year where the offer is conveyed to the recipient except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions are no longer seen to be within the control of the Trustees. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

- 1.3 Donated goods and services are included in the financial statements at a valuation which is an estimate of the market value of the services provided, where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the committee members and other volunteers is not recognised. However, the Trustees' annual report provides more information about their contribution.

- 1.4 Expenditure on raising funds are those costs which are incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

- 1.5 Charitable activities include grants and donations applied for the purchase of Sunshine Coaches and electric wheelchairs, grants for the benefit of individuals, hospitals and other organisations to help sick and disabled children. These include both the direct costs and support costs relating to the various activities.

- 1.6 Support costs relate to costs of central activities. These are allocated to activities in proportion to staff time on the relevant activity.

- 1.7 Governance costs, which are included in support costs include those incurred in the governance of the Charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.8 Basis of consolidation

The consolidated accounts incorporate the financial statements of Variety, the Children's Charity (Variety) and its subsidiary undertaking, Variety Events Limited (Events), consolidated on a line by line basis.

1.9 Restricted funds

Where a donor has specified a particular purpose for a donation, all transactions have been reflected within restricted funds. Movements in these funds are detailed in note 14 to the financial statements.

1.10 Depreciation

Variety took the option under FRS 102 to treat the previous valuation of the freehold land and property as deemed cost. Other tangible assets are carried at historical cost. Depreciation is provided to write off the cost, less estimated residual values, of all fixed assets over their expected useful lives. It is calculated on the original cost (or valuation) of the assets at the following rates:

Office equipment	-	20% to 33% per annum
Freehold building	-	2% per annum

No depreciation is charged on land with a value of £625,000. There is no set limit below which fixed assets are not capitalised.

1.11 Pension costs

Contributions to Variety's money purchase group personal pension plan are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the accounting period in which they are payable.

1.12 Investment property

Investment property, which is property held to earn rent and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at deemed cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.13 Financial instruments

Variety only has financial instruments and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial assets, including trade and other debtors, and cash and bank balances, are initially recognised at the transaction price. Such assets are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less impairment.

Financial assets are derecognised when (a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or (b) substantially all the risks and rewards of the ownership of the asset are transferred to another party.

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other creditors, and loans from third parties are initially recognised at the transaction price. Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods and services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Trade creditors are initially recognised at the transaction price and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Debt instruments include bank loans and mortgages. These are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.14 Critical accounting 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 period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The financial statements include the following key estimates:

The freehold property comprises three floors, two of which are occupied by Variety and the third floor is let at a commercial rent. The third floor investment property was revalued as at 31 December 2020 at £1.62m on 23 March 2021 by Robert Irving Burns Limited, 29-30 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 6LQ. The market value is based on the long leasehold interest, with the existing tenancy.

At the valuation date the property market continued to be faced with an unprecedented set of circumstances caused by COVID-19. There is limited market evidence on which to base judgements regarding the value of the property. Due to this, the valuation is reported as being subject to 'material valuation uncertainty' as set out in the RICS Valuation - Global Standards. Consequently, in respect of the valuation, less certainty - and a higher degree of caution - should be attached to the valuation than would normally be the case. This does not mean that the valuation cannot be relied upon.

The Charity estimates the market value of intangible income using publicly available price lists, or through direct confirmation with the suppliers of the amount that would have been charged had the gift or donated service been invoiced.

Income of £160,000 from residuary legacies has been recognised, which is included in debtors at year end. The amount reflects the charity's best estimate of what it will receive from its share of the estates. The net value of estates can change as assets are realised and so the amounts the charity receives may differ from the initial estimate.

2 Net income from trading activities of subsidiary

The principal activity of the subsidiary, Variety Events Limited (company no. 02280720), is the organisation and promotion of fund-raising activities and the sale of merchandise on behalf of Variety. A summary of the results is set out below. Audited accounts are filed with the Registrar of Companies.

	2020	2019
	£	£
Profit and loss account		
Turnover	386,343	2,179,592
Cost of sales	78,538	1,030,308
Gross profit	<u>307,805</u>	<u>1,149,284</u>
Fundraising and publicity	189,918	579,197
Management and administration (payable to the Charity)	9,600	16,920
Net profit	<u>108,287</u>	553,167
Gift aid donation to Charity	<u>108,287</u>	553,167
Retained profit	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:

Assets	740,845	1,096,064
Liabilities	<u>(740,745)</u>	<u>(1,095,964)</u>
Funds (representing 100 ordinary shares of £1 each)	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

3 Donated goods and services

	2020	2019
	£	£
Intangible Income - Gift in Kind	<u>54,721</u>	<u>828,610</u>
	<u>54,721</u>	<u>828,610</u>

Total expenditure includes £54,721 (2019: £828,610) an equivalent amount being described as intangible income (Gift in Kind) in the Statement of Financial Activities. The amount of £54,721 (2019: £397,383) is in respect of Variety Great Days Out activities and nil (2019: £431,227) in respect of grants to institutions (part of direct charitable expenditure). The rest of these activities are funded from the donations.

4 Employees

	2020	2019
	£	£
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	1,031,977	1,250,027
Social security costs	92,978	123,752
Other pension costs	69,402	74,944
	<u>1,194,357</u>	<u>1,448,723</u>

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2020	2019
Fundraising	13	10
Events	5	14
Sunshine Coaches	2	2
Wheelchairs	1	2
Grants	3	3
Variety Great Days Out activities	1	2
Support	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u>34</u>	<u>39</u>

The number of employees whose total remuneration (excluding pension) exceeded £60,000 was as follows:

	Number 2020	Number 2019
£60,000 to £69,999	1	1
£70,000 to £79,999	1	-
£80,000 to £89,999	1	1

The key management personnel of Variety comprises the Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Management Team. The total combined contractual benefits of the key management personnel of Variety was £462,696 (2019: £392,577).

The increase in the combined key management personnel contractual benefits was mainly due to the introduction of a senior management team early in 2020, which was not in place in the prior year.

5 Expenditure	Direct staff costs	Grant costs (Note 17)	Other direct costs	Support costs (Note 6)	Total
2020	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising donations and legacies	485,269	-	61,186	509,187	1,055,642
Cost of sales of trading subsidiary	-	-	78,538	-	78,538
Events support	171,644	-	-	179,628	351,272
	<u>656,913</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>139,724</u>	<u>688,815</u>	<u>1,485,452</u>
Sunshine Coaches	62,794	1,375,960	-	70,380	1,509,134
Wheelchairs	32,751	114,946	-	45,461	193,158
Grants	62,633	346,783	-	86,163	495,579
Variety Great Days Out	22,201	81,866	-	36,254	140,321
	<u>180,379</u>	<u>1,919,555</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>238,258</u>	<u>2,338,192</u>
	<u>837,292</u>	<u>1,919,555</u>	<u>139,724</u>	<u>927,073</u>	<u>3,823,644</u>

Increase in allocation of staff and support costs to raising donations and legacies is due to events being cancelled and therefore more time spent on raising donations.

2019	Direct staff costs	Grant costs (Note 17)	Other direct costs	Support costs (Note 6)	Total
2019	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising donations and legacies	376,248	-	202,478	267,864	846,590
Cost of sales of trading subsidiary	-	-	1,030,308	-	1,030,308
Events support	552,356	-	-	440,203	992,559
	<u>928,604</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,232,786</u>	<u>708,067</u>	<u>2,869,457</u>
Sunshine Coaches	81,469	2,247,733	-	72,082	2,401,284
Wheelchairs	49,277	405,096	-	52,569	506,942
Grants	71,938	846,195	-	68,149	986,282
Variety Great Days Out	64,865	504,106	-	73,029	642,000
	<u>267,549</u>	<u>4,003,130</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>265,829</u>	<u>4,536,508</u>
	<u>1,196,153</u>	<u>4,003,130</u>	<u>1,232,786</u>	<u>973,896</u>	<u>7,405,965</u>

6 Support Costs	Staff	Depreciation	Other	Total
2020	£	£	£	£
Governance/Legal	108,444	-	147,686	256,130
Finance & Administration	142,901	-	-	142,901
IT & Database	35,061	-	81,606	116,667
Office costs	18,044	-	206,103	224,147
HR/Staff related costs	13,385	-	53,587	66,972
Media/Publicity	34,490	-	8,454	42,944
Other support costs	5,754	41,234	30,324	77,312
	<u>358,079</u>	<u>41,234</u>	<u>527,760</u>	<u>927,073</u>
	<u>252,569</u>	<u>52,094</u>	<u>669,233</u>	<u>973,896</u>
2019	£	£	£	£
Governance/Legal	49,694	-	118,756	168,450
Finance & Administration	111,472	-	-	111,472
IT & Database	22,640	-	83,589	106,229
Office costs	22,562	-	230,915	253,477
HR/Staff related costs	12,418	-	99,460	111,878
Media/Publicity	31,327	-	57,119	88,446
Other support costs	2,456	52,094	79,394	133,944
	<u>252,569</u>	<u>52,094</u>	<u>669,233</u>	<u>973,896</u>

7 Net expenditure/ income is stated after charging:	2020 £	2019 £
Depreciation		
- office equipment	17,050	27,911
- freehold building	24,184	24,184
Auditors' remuneration - audit	25,200	27,200
Auditors' remuneration - taxation services	9,780	6,440
Operating lease expenditure	21,077	21,812

8 Tangible assets	Freehold land and buildings £	Office equipment £	Total £
Group and company			
Cost			
1 January 2020	2,279,182	117,351	2,396,533
Additions	-	3,274	3,274
Disposals	-	(51,905)	(51,905)
31 December 2020	<u>2,279,182</u>	<u>68,720</u>	<u>2,347,902</u>
Depreciation			
1 January 2020	590,100	86,481	676,581
Charge for the year	24,184	17,050	41,234
Disposals	-	(51,905)	(51,905)
31 December 2020	<u>614,284</u>	<u>51,626</u>	<u>665,910</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2020	<u>1,664,898</u>	<u>17,094</u>	<u>1,681,992</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2019	1,689,082	30,870	1,719,952

9 Fixed asset investments	Notes	Group 2020 £	Company 2020 £	Group 2019 £	Company 2019 £
Investment in subsidiary	(a)	-	100	-	100
Investment property	(b)	<u>1,620,000</u>	<u>1,620,000</u>	1,735,000	1,735,000
		<u>1,620,000</u>	<u>1,620,100</u>	1,735,000	1,735,100

(a) Variety owns all the issued shares (100 Ordinary shares of £1 each) in Variety Events Limited, a Company which is registered and operates in England (Variety House, 93 Bayham Street, London NW1 0AG) and whose main activity is the organisation and promotion of fund-raising activities and the sale of Gold Hearts and other merchandise on behalf of Variety. These are included in the financial statements at cost.

(b) The freehold property comprises three floors, two of which are occupied by Variety and the third floor is let at a commercial rent. The third floor investment property was revalued as at 31 December 2020 at £1.62m on 23 March 2021 by Robert Irving Burns Limited, 29-30 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 6LQ resulting in a revaluation loss of £115,000. The market value is based on the long leasehold interest, with the existing tenancy. In their report, Robert Irving Burns Limited explained:

At the valuation date the charity continued to be faced with an unprecedented set of circumstances caused by COVID-19. There is limited market evidence on which to base judgements regarding the value of the property. Due to this the valuation is reported as being subject to 'material valuation uncertainty' as set out in the RICS Valuation - Global Standards. Consequently, in respect of the valuation, less certainty - and a higher degree of caution - should be attached to the valuation than would normally be the case. This does not mean that the valuation cannot be relied upon.

10 Debtors	Group 2020 £	Company 2020 £	Group 2019 £	Company 2019 £
Trade debtors	45,027	36,565	282,315	31,698
Amounts due from subsidiary undertaking	-	563,068	-	912,286
Other debtors	120,195	45,573	138,769	121,266
Prepayments and accrued income	243,014	196,254	90,098	34,414
	<u>408,236</u>	<u>841,460</u>	511,182	1,099,664

All debtors are due within one year.

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2020 £	Company £	Group 2019 £	Company £
Accruals for grants payable	183,803	183,803	214,390	214,390
Mortgage (secured - see note 12)	45,785	45,785	43,347	43,347
Bank loan (see note 12)	25,000	25,000	-	-
Trade creditors	21,835	21,779	242,792	217,905
Accruals and deferred income	262,515	108,809	195,990	68,219
Other creditors	42,090	18,175	38,615	7,595
	581,028	403,351	735,134	551,456

The movement in creditors for grants and donations is as follow:

	2019 £	Charge for the year £	Payments £	2020 £
Wheelchairs	66,944	90,065	(137,809)	19,200
Sunshine Coaches	31,131	1,463,343	(1,384,008)	110,466
General grants	116,315	361,774	(423,952)	54,137
	214,390	1,915,182	(1,945,769)	183,803

	2018 £	Charge for the year £	Payments £	2019 £
Wheelchairs	55,354	405,096	(393,506)	66,944
Sunshine Coaches	36,704	2,247,733	(2,253,306)	31,131
General grants	202,295	414,918	(500,898)	116,315
	294,353	3,067,747	(3,147,710)	214,390

Deferred income

Deferred income comprises advance ticket sales for various events, London Marathon registration fees and rental income received in advance.

	Group £	Company £
Balance as at 1 January 2020	133,376	26,566
Amount released to income earned	(133,376)	(26,566)
Amount deferred in year	167,215	26,625
Balance as at 31 December 2020	167,215	26,625

	Group £	Company £
Balance as at 1 January 2019	115,510	89,505
Amount released to income earned	(115,510)	(89,505)
Amount deferred in year	133,376	26,566
Balance as at 31 December 2019	133,376	26,566

12 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

Group and company	2020 £	2019 £
Mortgage (secured)	928,579	974,364
Bank Loan (Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan)	225,000	-
	1,153,579	974,364

Mortgage (secured)

The mortgage is secured on Variety's freehold land and building and is repayable over the remaining period of 7.5 years at an interest rate of 5.51% per annum as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
In more than one year but not more than two years	48,361	45,785
In more than two years but not more than five years	162,024	153,395
In more than five years	718,194	775,184
	928,579	974,364

The proportion of the loan to the value of the assets charged is:

	30%	29%
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12 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (continue)

Bank Loan (Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan)

The Government pays the interest on the loan for the first 12 months from 9th June 2020 (Business interruption Payment). The bank loan is repayable over the remaining period of 60 months from 9th June 2021 at an interest rate of 2.09% p.a. over Base Rate

	2020	2019
	£	£
In more than one year but not more than two years	50,000	-
In more than two years but not more than five years	150,000	-
In more than five years	25,000	-
	225,000	-

13 Analysis of group net assets between funds

	2020	2020	2020
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	3,301,992	-	3,301,992
Current assets	999,516	1,129,855	2,129,371
Current liabilities	(397,225)	(183,803)	(581,028)
Long-term liabilities	(1,153,579)	-	(1,153,579)
Total net assets	2,750,704	946,052	3,696,756

	2019	2019	2019
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	3,454,952	-	3,454,952
Current assets	828,338	1,393,802	2,222,140
Current liabilities	(520,744)	(214,390)	(735,134)
Long-term liabilities	(974,364)	-	(974,364)
Total net assets	2,788,182	1,179,412	3,967,594

14 Movement on funds

Group and company	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020
	Opening	Income	Expenditure	Transfers/ gains	Closing
	Balance	£	£	and losses	Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	2,788,182	1,389,099	(1,311,577)	(115,000)	2,750,704
Restricted funds					
Sunshine Coach Programme	170,399	1,228,733	(1,151,604)	-	247,528
Wheelchair Programme	46,003	129,426	(109,394)	-	66,035
Variety Club Golf Society	369,935	496,511	(586,807)	-	279,639
Special Purpose Funds incl. sensory kit programme	499,988	97,246	(337,471)	-	259,763
Kings College Hospital	93,087	-	-	-	93,087
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	216,791	(216,791)	-	-
Coronavirus Community Support Fund	-	110,000	(110,000)	-	-
	1,179,412	2,278,707	(2,512,067)	-	946,052
Total funds	3,967,594	3,667,806	(3,823,644)	(115,000)	3,696,756

The loss of £115,000 for the year ended 31 December 2020 reflects the loss on revaluation of the investment property.

	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019
	Opening	Income	Expenditure	Transfers/ gains	Closing
	Balance	£	£	and losses	Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	2,727,650	2,888,354	(2,909,461)	81,639	2,788,182
Restricted funds					
Sunshine Coach Programme	47,265	2,224,847	(2,020,074)	(81,639)	170,399
Wheelchair Programme	199,212	240,417	(393,626)	-	46,003
Variety Club Golf Society	317,114	811,049	(758,228)	-	369,935
Special Purpose Funds	325,823	1,498,741	(1,324,576)	-	499,988
Kings College Hospital	93,087	-	-	-	93,087
	982,501	4,775,054	(4,496,504)	-	1,179,412
Total funds	3,710,151	7,663,408	(7,405,965)	-	3,967,594

The transfer of £81,639 for the year ended 31 December 2019 reflects the transfer between funds to cover the central costs of the Sunshine Coach Programme.

14 Movement on funds (continue)

Sunshine Coaches Programme

The fund comprises monies raised to provide Sunshine Coaches, excluding funds raised by Variety Golf Society or contributions from Variety's Special Purpose Funds. Sunshine Coaches are presented to schools, hospitals, children's homes and other such organisations throughout the UK.

Wheelchair Programme

The Wheelchair Programme Committee raises funds to deal with the heavy demand for indoor/outdoor electric wheelchairs and sports/lightweight wheelchairs which are not currently provided by the NHS.

Variety Golf Society

The Variety Golf Society assists Variety by organising Golf events, the funds of which are used to purchase Sunshine Coaches.

Special Purpose Funds

Variety works closely with donors to help them to raise funds and to match those funds to suitable projects. Special Purpose Funds reflect funds raised to help sick, disabled and disadvantaged children and young people which have not yet been matched to specific projects.

Kings College Hospital

Funds raised to contribute to the building of a new wing at the Variety Children's Hospital at King's.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

HMRC scheme in which Variety was able to claim for 80% of employee's wages, employers NI and pension contributions for staff put on furlough or flexible furlough because of coronavirus.

Coronavirus Community Support Fund

Variety received from The National Lottery Community Fund a grant to support children and families during the Covid19 lockdown.

Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan (CBILS)

In addition to the Government support noted above, Variety received the Government backed CBILS loan to support cashflow pressures Variety experienced as a result of the Covid19 outbreak (see note 12 for further details).

15 Taxation status

Variety is a registered charity and is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable income, provided this is spent on charitable purposes.

The subsidiary undertaking's profits are donated to Variety under Gift Aid through a deed of covenant. Accordingly there is no provision for taxation on its profit for the year.

16 Members' liability

As Variety is limited by guarantee, there is no share capital. At 31 December 2020, there were 10 members (2019 - 15), each of whom have undertaken to contribute to the assets in the event of Variety being wound up, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £1.

17 Grants and donations

2020	Individuals		Institutions		Total	
	£	No	£	No	£	No
Grants	301,201	1,142	45,582	12	346,783	1,154
Sunshine Coaches	-	-	1,375,960	41	1,375,960	41
Wheelchairs	91,046	20	23,900	1	114,946	21
Variety Great Days Out	81,866	3,857	-	-	81,866	3,857
	<u>474,113</u>	<u>5,019</u>	<u>1,445,442</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>1,919,555</u>	<u>5,073</u>

Analysis of grants £5,000 and over made to institutions:

	£
St John's Catholic School, Wetherby	44,526
Shenstone School, Crayford	72,486
Ambitious About Autism, London	41,526
Claremont School, Bristol	41,306
Wyre Forest School, Kidderminster	41,306
Two Rivers Primary School, Tamworth	41,306
The Albion Foundation, Smethwick	41,306
Talbot Special School, Sheffield	41,306
Rowan Tree Primary School, Manchester	41,306
Red Gates School, South Croydon	69,160
Northwood Community Primary School, Kirby	41,306
Balance carried forward	<u>516,840</u>

17 Grants and donations (continued)

	£
Balance brought forward	516,840
Eresby School, Spilsby	41,306
Drumpark Primary School, Coatbridge	41,306
Castledon School, Wickford	41,306
Brimble Hill school, Swindon	41,306
The Young Lewisham Project, Forest Hill	37,708
Resources for Autism, Barnet	37,108
Willowbank School, Kilmarnock	36,871
Birtenshaw School, Liverpool	36,797
The Milestone School, Longlevens	36,651
Ash Lee school, Cotgrave	36,651
Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project, Cramlington	34,346
Drumbeat School and ASD Service, Bromley	30,740
Carnforth School, Worcester	30,740
Villiers High School, Southall	28,948
St Martins School, Alvaston	28,438
Manchester Secondary School, Manchester	28,438
Jenner Park Primary School, Barry	28,438
Grange Park School, Wrotham	28,438
Fox Hollies Special School, Birmingham	28,438
Football Beyond Borders, Manchester	28,438
Cherry Oak School, Birmingham	28,438
Cricknet Green School, Mitcham	24,806
Brooklands School, Reigate	24,806
Sale United Power Chair Football Club, Nantwich	23,900
Willow Dene School, Plumstead	22,651
The Firs, Northolt	21,901
Maddison Primary School, Falkirk	21,901
Mary Russell School, Paisley	16,938
Brooklands School, Reigate	16,938
Springwell School, Hartlepool	9,851
North Beckton Primary School, Newham	8,000
The Milestone School, Gloucester	6,700
The Golf Trust, London	5,332
Donations under £5,000	14,029
	<u>1,445,442</u>

2019	Individuals		Institutions		Total	
	£	No	£	No	£	No
Grants	230,523	121	615,672	45	846,195	166
Sunshine Coaches	-	-	2,247,733	70	2,247,733	70
Wheelchairs	405,096	94	-	-	405,096	94
Variety Great Days Out	504,106	20,355	-	-	504,106	20,355
	<u>1,139,725</u>	<u>20,570</u>	<u>2,863,405</u>	<u>115</u>	<u>4,003,130</u>	<u>20,685</u>

Analysis of grants £5,000 and over made to institutions:

	£
Green Meadows School, Leeds (incl. gift in kind)	371,277
Springwater School, Harrogate (incl. gift in kind)	155,485
Pantysgallog Primary School, Merthyr Tydfil	42,306
Evergreen Primary School, Bishop Auckland	42,306
Nicholas School, Canterbury	42,306
Grantham Additional Needs, Grantham	42,306
Woodlands School, London	42,256
Sir Charles Parsons School, Newcastle Upon Tyne	40,989
Beaufort School, Birmingham	40,676
Ysgol Dyffryn Aman-Canolfan Amanwy, Dyfed	40,456
Beacon Hill School, Wallsend	40,456
Clifton Hill School, Caterham	40,456
Beaucroft Foundation School, Wimborne	40,456
Essex Primary School, Manor Park	40,456
Ifield School, Gravesend	40,456
Marshfield School, Peterborough	40,456
Red Marsh School, Thornton-Cleveleys	40,456
Broomfield School, Leeds	40,456
Balance carried forward	<u>1,184,011</u>

17 Grants and donations (continued)	£
Balance brought forward	1,184,011
Woodlands School, Leatherhead	40,456
Dee Banks Special School, Chester	40,456
Astley Park School, Chorley	40,456
Portesbury School, Camberley	40,456
Green Meadows School, Leeds	40,456
Birtenshaw School, Bolton	37,748
The Petty Pool Trust, Northwich	37,748
Firpark Primary School, Motherwell	36,038
Royal Cross Primary School, Ashton-on-Ribble	35,898
Ifield School, Gravesend	35,898
Hazel Court School, Eastbourne	35,898
NYCC Cherry Tree Lodge, Scarborough	35,898
Birtenshaw School, Bolton	35,898
Grangewood School, London	35,898
Nidderdale Children's Resource Centre, Harrogate	35,898
Green Fold Special School, Bolton	35,898
Bede Youth Adventure Project, London	33,425
Bolton Playing for Success, Bolton	31,958
St Michael's RC Primary School, Newcastle Upon Tyne	31,958
Holy Family Youth Centre, Belfast	30,688
St. Mary's C of E Primary School, Kidderminster	30,248
Wykebeck School, Leeds	30,108
Brimble Hill Specialist, Swindon	30,108
Romans Field School, Milton Keynes	30,108
Oscott Manor School, Birmingham	30,108
Carnforth School, Worcester	30,108
The Somerville, London	30,108
St Anne's School & Sixth Form College, Borough	30,108
Hilbre High School, Liverpool	30,108
The Dales School, Blyth	29,704
Rossmere Primary School, Durham	29,704
Anderson School, London	27,854
Beaucroft Foundation School, Wimborne	27,854
Carew Academy, Wallington	27,854
Four Acres Academy, Bristol	27,854
Greenbank School, Northwich	27,854
Lawnswood Campus, Wolverhampton	27,854
Northern House School, Birmingham	27,854
Grange Park Primary School, Sevenoaks	27,854
St John's RC School, Woodford Green	27,854
Merkland School, Glasgow	27,854
Sycamore Short Stay School, Dudley	27,854
Rowan High School, Liverpool	27,854
Five Acre Wood School, Maidstone	24,456
Maes Ebbw School, Newport	24,456
The Ridgeway School, Farnham	21,898
Brackenfield Special School, Nottingham	20,000
Bradford Central Pupil Referral, Shipley	18,358
St Marys School, Heathfield	17,104
Cuckmere House School, Seaford	17,104
New Horizons School, St Leonards on Sea	17,104
Cuckmere House School, Seaford	17,104
New Horizons School, St Leonards on Sea	17,104
St Mary's School, Heathfield	17,104
The Golf Trust, Barnet	10,000
Hedworthfield Primary, Jarrow	5,117
Foxgloves, Bedford	5,020
Donations under £5,000	53,670
	<u>2,863,405</u>

18 Commitments

As at 31 December 2020, Variety had approved in principal, applications requesting to supply Sunshine Coaches totalling £388,925 (2019: £448,250). The grants are conditional upon specific funding being raised to finance the cost of the coaches. The specific funding for these coaches had not been confirmed at the year end.

19 Pensions

Variety operates a money purchase group personal pension plan. There are a number of individual pension plans to which Variety contributes.

20 Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/ income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/ income for the reporting period	(270,838)	257,443
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	41,234	52,095
Loss on investments	115,000	-
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	(102,024)	(99,542)
Decrease/ (Increase) in debtors	102,946	(11,418)
(Decrease)/ Increase in creditors	(181,544)	48,184
Net cash (used in)/ provided by operating activities	<u>(295,226)</u>	<u>246,762</u>

21 Operating lessor commitments

At 31 December 2020, the group was entitled to receive future payments from non-cancellable operating leases of £238,500 (2019 - £249,000) as set out below.

	Rental income	
	2020	2019
	£	£
Receipts due in:		
Less than 1 year	82,000	82,000
Between 1 and 2 years	83,000	83,000
Between 3 and 5 years	73,500	84,000
	<u>238,500</u>	<u>249,000</u>

22 Operating lease commitments

At 31 December 2020, the group had future lease payments of £45,995 (2019 - £67,510) payable under non-cancellable operating leases as set out below.

	Office Equipment	
	2020	2019
	£	£
Payments due in:		
Less than 1 year	18,462	21,516
Between 1 and 2 years	16,422	18,462
Between 3 and 5 years	11,111	27,533
	<u>45,995</u>	<u>67,511</u>

23 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

None of the Trustees received either remuneration or reimbursed expenditure during this financial year or the last financial year.

The total amount of donations received from the Trustees or their companies during the year was £4,770 (2019: £12,312). Trustees also supported the Charity's fundraising events. The total amount received from Trustees or their companies during the year from tickets and other purchases in support of the Charity's fundraising events was £850 (2019: £79,025).

During the year, as permitted and subject to strict protocols, the Group entered into the following arrangements in which the following Trustees had an interest:

Northern Commercials (Mirfield) Limited £1,375,960 payable (2019: £2,247,733) for the Sunshine Coaches and £172,000 receivable (2019: £256,000) for the royalties, a company of which Mr William Sangster is a consultant.

Legal fees of £11,941 (2019: £2,100) payable to Howard Kennedy LLP, a firm of which Mr Jason Lewis is a consultant.

In addition, during the year, as permitted and subject to strict protocols, the Group paid:

The Neil Drover Agency £3,300 (2019: £13,3280) for rent and other services. Mr Neil Drover, who is a past regional chairman and committee member, is a proprietor of that business.

23 Transactions with trustees and connected persons (continued)

At the year end the following were owed to Variety for the purchase of sponsorship at events.

Vetiver Properties Ltd nil (2019: £5,000) (Mr Jason Lewis is a director and his wife is a director and shareholder of this company),

Mr Laurence Davis nil (2019: £840), Desmond Sautter Limited nil (2019: £5,250) (Mr Laurence Davies is a director and shareholder of this company),

Northern Commercials (Mirfield) Limited nil (2019: £62,400) (Mr William Sangster is a consultant to this company).

Transactions and balances between the Charity and its trading subsidiary, Variety Events Limited, are set out in the notes to the accounts (see notes 2 and 10).