

The Victoria League For Commonwealth Friendship

A registered charity
A company limited by guarantee

Council's Report and Accounts

Year Ended

31 December 2023

Company Number 00174517
Registered Charity Number 213619

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THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Registration Number:

213619

Company Registration Number:

00174517

Registered office and principal address of the Charity:

Victoria League House, 55 Leinster Square, London W2 4PW

Auditors

Azets Audit Services, Chartered Accountants, 2nd Floor, Regis House, 45 King William Street, London EC4R 9AN

Solicitors

Keelys LLP, 28 Dam Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 6AA

Russell Cooke LLP, 2 Putney Hill, London SW15 6AB

Bankers

Nat West Bank Plc, Notting Hill Gate (A) Branch, PO Box No 1936, 48 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3HZ

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling. Kent ME19 4JQ

Investment Managers

Charles Stanley & Co. Ltd, 55 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 3AS

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Mr D Doughty (Hon Treasurer)

Mrs N Downer

Mr S Ennis CA AAT (Fellow) (appointed 13 February 2024)

Brigadier A Faith CBE (Chairman, resigned 5 July 2023)

Mrs G Graham

Ms S Ives

Mr T Layton

LT Col Sir C Richards KCVO (appointed 13 February 2024)

Mr J. Steel KC (Chairman, appointed 5 July 2023)

Mr S. Wainwright (appointed 5 July 2023)

Mrs J. A. Williamson

General Manager of The Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship

Ms Doreen Henry

COUNCIL'S REPORT

The Council presents its report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Objectives and Activities

2023 proved to be a pivotal year for the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship. At the end of 2022 the Trustees decided to continue, as long as finances allow, with the operation of Student House as student accommodation for Commonwealth students. The Trustees had explored the financial implications of a sale but had rejected this course of action. 2024 sees the celebration of 70 years of operating Student House here in Bayswater. Celebrations will include an open Day in October 2024.

The charity also updated its governance documentation by way of new Articles of Association which were agreed by the AGM in July 2023. This modernised the set of procedures and practices first accepted in 1921 and most recently amended in 2007, so there were many areas which needed to reflect the society we now operate in.

The charity's object is, for public benefit, the advancement of education, particularly but not exclusively by:

- Providing assistance to individuals from the Commonwealth who are studying or wish to study in the UK;
- Providing information relating to and raising awareness amongst the public of the Commonwealth, its people, institutions, traditions and ways of life; and
- Supporting educational programmes within the Commonwealth.

Public benefit

During the year the Council have reviewed the League's activities and strategy and is satisfied that the activities undertaken meet the public benefit criteria of the Charity Commission.

Achievements and Performance

- This year's Patron's Award for Commonwealth Friendship was awarded to Lakshmi Manaswini Konduri.
- We continued to have a presence at Commonwealth/Royal events in 2023, including the Commonwealth Service, Anzac Day and the King's Birthday Trooping of the Colours.
- Some building improvement works at Student House were carried out in 2023 – two shower rooms were re-fitted and the ground floor communal rooms were decorated.
- We had a visit from Dr Jeannette Young, Governor of Queensland, Australia in May 2023. She was in London for the coronation of King Charles III. She spent a couple of hours at Student House meeting students, Trustees and some other visitors from Australia.

COUNCIL'S REPORT

Achievements and Performance (continued)

- We continued our support of APIE, Umubano Academy, Rwanda as our overseas project for 2023, by providing funding towards teacher training support. This funding was from the legacy donation in 2021 from the late Robert Wainwright.
- During 2023 students from 21 countries stayed at Student House. The gender split was 50% female and 50% male. The age range was 24% 18-21 years old; 62% 22-25 years old and 14% 26+ years old. Degrees pursued were Undergrad 10%, Masters 55%, PhD 28%. Internship/work 5% and others 2%.
Top three subjects – Engineering, Public Health/Sciences and Business/Finance.
Top three institutions were Imperial, UCL and Kings College, London.

Financial Review

The net movement in funds for the year, was surplus of £4,610 (2022 loss of £22,096). Student House income increased to £321,867 from £297,956 in 2022. The financial results reflect the League's investment in financial assets which made a loss of £3,348 (loss £20,555 in 2022).

Reserves policy

At 31st December 2023, the free reserves were £254,290 (£232,023 in 2022) represented by unrestricted general funds less restricted tangible assets. The Council considers that these reserves are required to meet operating expenses plus an amount to be held in reserve to meet any further unforeseen downturn in gross income.

Our investments are managed by our stockbrokers Charles Stanley and Co. Investments are made to produce a balanced income to meet the needs of our charitable activities and administration and to provide capital growth for the future.

Fixed assets

Changes to fixed assets is shown on page 19. The value of Student House property is estimated to be £10 million.

Investment policy

Our reserve funds are invested in stocks quoted on the Stock Exchange, in unit trusts and government bonds. They are managed by our stockbrokers Charles Stanley and Co Ltd. Investments are made to produce a balanced income to meet the needs of the charitable activities and administration costs to provide capital growth in the future.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Articles of Association updated and agreed in July 2023. Company Membership is only open to the Trustees.

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are now appointed and can be removed by the Board of Trustees known as the Council. The chairman is elected by the Council.

Brigadier Anthony Faith stood down as Chairman of the Council at the AGM in 2023. The post was then filled by John Steel KC, who was elected as Trustee and Director at the AGM and took up the post of chairman on 7th July 2023. Simon Wainwright was also elected to Council as a Trustee and Director at the AGM.

In February 2024 two additional Trustees were appointed – Samuel Ennis and Lt Col. Sir Charles Richards KCVO.

There were no staff changes in 2023.

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also directors of The Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Annual 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 of the income resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company for the 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 2015 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK 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 charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company 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 charity's auditors are 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.

Auditors

Azets Audit Services has expressed a willingness to continue in office and a resolution to reappoint them as auditors will be proposed at the next Trustee Meeting.

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

On behalf of the Trustees



John Steel KC
(Chairman)

Date: 24/05/24

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023, and of its 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.

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

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 9, the trustees (who are also the directors of the 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 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 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 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 auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the 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.

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

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 is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members 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 charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Azets Audit Services

John Howard (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services
Statutory Auditor, Chartered Accountants
2nd Floor, Regis House
45 King William Street
London EC4R 9AN

Date: 29 May 2024

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including Income and Expenditure Account)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income:						
Donations and legacies	2	6,215	-	-	6,215	5,227
Charitable activities	3	321,867	-	-	321,867	297,956
Other trading activities	4	5,883	-	-	5,883	5,792
Investment income	5	12,373	1,921	407	14,701	13,473
Total income		346,338	1,921	407	348,666	322,448
Expenditure:						
Raising funds	6	6,299	-	-	6,299	5,600
Charitable activities	7	329,159	5,250	-	334,409	318,389
Total expenditure		335,458	5,250	-	340,708	323,989
Net (expenditure)/ income before gains on investments	8	10,880	(3,329)	407	7,958	(1,541)
Net (losses)/gains on investments	14	(266)	(1,788)	(1,294)	(3,348)	(20,555)
NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE)		10,614	(5,117)	(887)	4,610	(22,096)
Transfers	17,18, 19	-	407	(407)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		10,614	(4,710)	(1,294)	4,610	(22,096)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		1,054,707	46,708	23,294	1,124,709	1,146,805
Total funds carried forward		1,065,321	41,998	22,000	1,129,319	1,124,709

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

All recognised gains and losses are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The notes on pages 15 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

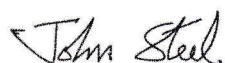
BALANCE SHEET

COMPANY NUMBER: 00174517

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	13	609,031	622,659
Investments	14	<u>437,060</u>	<u>390,544</u>
Current assets			
Stock		1,205	310
Debtors	15	54,666	39,039
Cash and bank and in hand		<u>77,738</u>	<u>141,132</u>
		133,609	180,481
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(50,381)</u>	<u>(68,975)</u>
Net current assets		83,228	111,506
Net assets		<u>1,129,319</u>	<u>1,124,709</u>
Restricted funds	17	41,998	46,708
Endowment funds	18	22,000	23,294
Unrestricted funds	19		
Designated funds		200,000	200,000
General funds		865,321	854,707
Total funds	20	<u>1,129,319</u>	<u>1,124,709</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board on the 24/5/2024 and signed on their behalf by:



John Steel KC
Chairman



Dermot Doughty
Honorary Treasurer

The notes on pages 15 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) General information and basis of preparation

The Victoria League For Commonwealth Friendship is a company limited by guarantee in the United Kingdom. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 2 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are set out on page 3.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The charitable company constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

(b) Going Concern

The Trustees have concluded that the League has adequate financial resources to meet its liabilities for at least 12 months from the date of signing the financial statements. The accounts have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

(c) Funds

General funds comprise the accumulated surplus on the income and expenditure accounts. They are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and are retained for working capital purposes.

Designated funds are those funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds are those funds whose ultimate use is specified, either by the donor, or by the charity where funds are being raised for a specific purpose.

Permanent endowment funds are those funds where the capital received is invested by the charity. The income arising from these investments is available to meet specific costs as they arise.

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

(d) Income

All income resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income represents the amounts invoiced for board and accommodation.

Donations and grants received for current and future revenue expenditure are treated as the income of the year in which they are received.

Membership fees are in respect of membership of the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship and are treated on a receipts basis.

Legacies are taken into account when there is legal entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Within other trading activities, there is income from fundraising activities and other sundry receipts by the charity in the year.

Other income includes the government grant income received in the year in relation to The Coronavirus Job retention Scheme and is recognised in the period when the costs are incurred.

(e) Expenditure

Expenditure has been recognised as soon as:

- A legal or constructive obligation commits the charity to the expenditure
- Any conditions relating to payment have fallen outside the control of the charity

Charitable expenditure includes all costs relating to the furtherance of the charitable objectives.

All expenses incurred are treated on the accruals basis.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

(f) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include wages and salaries, depreciation, repairs and maintenance, legal and professional fees and other small costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charitable company.

Governance costs include all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. This comprises of audit and accountancy fees.

Support and Governance costs have been allocated to charitable activities.

(g) Tangible fixed assets

The policy of the League is to write off fixed assets, except freehold land and buildings, at the following annual rates:

Freehold building	-	over 25 years
Building improvements	-	over 25 years
Plant and equipment	-	10% on reducing balance
Computer and copying equipment	-	25% on cost

Land is not depreciated.

The trustees have considered the implications of FRS 102 section 17. The trustees consider that there is no impairment needed in respect of the building. Provision is made for permanent diminution in the value of fixed assets where appropriate.

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost.

(h) Investments

Investments are shown in the balance sheet at their market value. The market value of investments is determined by reference to stock exchange prices at the balance sheet date. Any gain or loss is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

(i) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(j) Debtors

Other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. Accrued income is measured at the amount due to be received.

(k) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

(l) Creditors and provisions

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Other creditors and accruals are recognised at their settlement amount due.

(m) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(n) Operating Leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases, where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

(o) Foreign currency

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of the transaction. All exchange differences are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(p) Tax

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

No tax charge arose in the period.

(q) Legal status

The charitable company 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.

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

(r) Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The following judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies that have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements:

Useful economic lives of tangible assets

The annual depreciation charge for tangible assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are re-assessed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 13 for the carrying amount of the property plant and equipment, and note (g) for the useful economic lives for each class of assets.

There are no key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations and membership fees	6,215	-	-	6,215	5,227

In 2022, all of the income from donations and legacies was attributable to the unrestricted fund.

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Student House	321,867	-	-	321,867	297,956

In 2022 all of the income from charitable activities was attributable to the unrestricted fund.

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Other misc. income	5,883	-	-	5,883	5,792

In 2022 all of the income from other trading activities was attributable to the unrestricted fund.

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Income from investments	12,373	1,921	407	14,701	13,473

In 2022, £637 of the investment income was attributable to the endowment fund, £1,303 was attributable to the restricted fund, with the remaining £11,533 being attributable to the unrestricted fund.

6. RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Event Costs	6,299	-	-	6,299	5,600

In 2022 expenditure in relation to raising funds was attributable to the unrestricted fund.

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Student House	327,159	-	-	327,159	306,139
Grants (note 10)	2,000	5,250	-	7,250	12,250
	329,159	5,250	-	334,409	318,389

In 2022, £308,139 of the expenditure in relation to charitable activities was attributable to the unrestricted fund, with the remaining £10,250 being attributable to the restricted fund.

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	Direct Charitable	Grants (note 10)	Support costs (note 11)	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Student House	264,291	-	62,868	327,159	306,139
Grants payable	-	7,250	-	7,250	12,250
Charitable expenditure	264,291	7,250	62,868	334,409	318,389
Raising funds	6,299	-	-	6,299	5,600
	<u>270,590</u>	<u>7,250</u>	<u>62,868</u>	<u>340,708</u>	<u>323,989</u>

9. GRANTS PAYABLE

	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£
Council of Commonwealth Societies	2,000	2,000
Patron's Fund gift	250	250
Other	5,000	10,000
	<u>7,250</u>	<u>12,250</u>

10. SUPPORT COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Governance costs – Audit fees	7,750	6,500
Governance costs – Non-Audit fees	3,200	2,800
Governance costs – Prior year under/(over) accrual of audit fees	775	150
Wages and salaries	27,414	31,393
Depreciation	5,821	5,821
Repairs and maintenance	5,014	6,268
Professional fees	8,416	22,064
Other	4,478	3,643
	<u>62,868</u>	<u>78,639</u>

11. NET INCOMING RESOURCES

	2023	2022
	£	£
The surplus for the year is stated after charging:		
Income from listed investments	(14,701)	(13,473)
Depreciation and amortisation	29,456	29,095
Auditors' remuneration – audit	10,950	9,300
Auditors' remuneration – prior year over accrual	775	150
	<u></u>	<u></u>

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12. ANALYSIS OF STAFF COSTS, TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES AND THE COST OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries and wages	138,167	124,708
Social security costs	5,505	6,413
Pension costs	9,208	9,691
Staff health insurance	1,040	1,040
	<u>153,920</u>	<u>141,852</u>

The average number of full-time equivalent employees:	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
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No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2022: None)

During 2023, no council member (2022: £nil) was paid or received any other benefits from employment with the Charity. Also, no council member (2022: £nil) was reimbursed for travel and meeting expenses.

The key management of the Charity are the trustees.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £nil (2022: £nil).

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Building Improvements £	Plant and Equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2023	295,519	494,656	216,250	1,006,425
Additions	-	-	15,828	15,828
At 31 December 2023	<u>295,519</u>	<u>494,656</u>	<u>232,078</u>	<u>1,022,253</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2023	72,794	122,014	188,958	383,766
Charge for the year	5,821	19,786	3,849	29,456
At 31 December 2023	<u>78,615</u>	<u>141,800</u>	<u>192,807</u>	<u>413,222</u>
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2023	<u>216,904</u>	<u>352,856</u>	<u>39,271</u>	<u>609,031</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>222,725</u>	<u>372,642</u>	<u>27,292</u>	<u>622,659</u>

Included in Freehold Land and Building is £150,000 (2022: £150,000) relating to land.

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

14. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Investments listed on a recognised stock exchange	414,210	367,694
Other investment assets	22,850	22,850
	437,060	390,544
Investments at cost	366,860	312,343

Movement in investments are as follows:

	Listed securities
Valuation at 1 January 2023	390,544
Additions	62,797
Disposals	(12,933)
Realised gains in the year	4,647
Unrealised losses in the year	(7,995)
Valuation at 31 December 2023	437,060

The investments listed on a recognised stock exchange are all UK equities.

The following investments comprise more than 5% of the value of the total portfolio:

	Portfolio 2023	Portfolio 2022
	%	%
Aberdeen Asian Income Fund Ord NPV	5.02	5.85
Avi Global Trust ORD GBP0.10	5.31	6.34
Blackrock North Am. Inc. ordinary £0.01 shares	5.73	6.60
Fidelity European Values ORD GBP0.025	5.21	7.39
JP Morgan Global Core Real Assets	-	5.60
RIT Capital partners ordinary £1 shares	5.79	7.37
Ruffer Investment Co Red Ptg Pre Shs GBP0.001	8.63	11.00
Sequoia Economic Infrast INC FD Ltd	5.77	6.69
Scottish American Investment Co Ord GBP 0.25	-	5.27
United Kingdom (Government of) 5% SNR BDS	12.18	-

15. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts due from Student House residents	33,000	13,370
Prepayments	20,881	22,740
Other debtors	785	2,929
	54,666	39,039

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade Creditors	14,041	27,537
Payments received in advance from residents	-	666
Taxation and social security	4,205	8,514
Sundry creditors and accruals	32,135	32,258
	50,381	68,975

17. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	1 January 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers & Gains/ (losses) £	31 December 2023 £
Specific Room					
Maintenance	2,694	-	-	407	3,101
Patron's Fund	1,250	-	(250)	-	1,000
Student House					
Refurbishment	1,574	-	-	-	1,574
Robert Wainwright fund	41,190	1,921	(5,000)	(1,788)	36,323
Total	46,708	1,921	(5,250)	(1,381)	41,998

Specific Room Maintenance

The income from the endowment fund is to be used for specific room maintenance (see note 18).

Patron's Fund

In 2017, £2,500 was received from The Patron's Fund, the charitable fund set up to acknowledge the work of the charitable organisations for which Her Majesty, The late Queen acted as Patron, on the occasion of her 90th birthday. It was decided that £250 per year for the next 10 years, would be awarded to the student at Student House who had best promoted Commonwealth Friendship at the house that year. The recipient for 2023 was Lakshmi Manaswini Konduri from India.

Student House Refurbishment Fund

This fund created in 2020, was set up to support the refurbishing of rooms in the Student House. This included communal kitchens and student rooms. Funds are raised through members, students, supporters and branches. Refurbishment work was suspended in 2020 due to Covid but commenced again in 2023.

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Robert Wainwright Fund

In 2021, a £50,000 legacy was received from the Robert Wainwright fund. This was to be used by Victoria League to:

- support those overseas projects on an educational theme selected annually by the Trustees, and;
- to assist those Commonwealth students studying in the United Kingdom who have been awarded scholarships by the Trustees.

In 2021, the Trustees decided to investment the money into its investment fund, to generate additional income to be used as above.

The original capital invested is made up as follows:

	£
JP Morgan Global Core Real Assets	20,000
Scottish American Investment Co Ord GBP 0.25	20,000
Temple Bar investment Trust Ord GBP0.25	10,000
	<u>50,000</u>

During the year ending 2023, dividend income of £1,921 (2022: £1,303) was received and an investment loss of £1,788 (2022: gain of £1,791) was noted.

17. RESTRICTED FUNDS – Prior Year

	1 January 2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers & Gains/ (losses) £	31 December 2022 £
Specific Room					
Maintenance	2,057	-	-	637	2,694
Patron's Fund	1,500	-	(250)	-	1,250
Student House					
Refurbishment	1,574	-	-	-	1,574
APIE	111	-	(111)	-	-
Robert Wainwright fund	51,567	1,303	(9,889)	(1,791)	41,190
Total	<u>56,809</u>	<u>1,303</u>	<u>(10,250)</u>	<u>(1,154)</u>	<u>46,708</u>

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

18. ENDOWMENT FUNDS	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance at 1 January 2023	23,294	26,671
Investment income	407	637
Realised gain on investment	2,216	-
Unrealised gain on investment	1,132	(3,377)
Disposals	(4,642)	-
Transfer to the Specific Room Maintenance Restricted Fund	(407)	(637)
Balance at 31 December 2023	<u>22,000</u>	<u>23,294</u>
The original capital invested is made up as follows:	£	£
Margaret Farmer (Victoria) Room investment	2,386	2,386
Australia Room investment	4,077	4,077
	<u>6,463</u>	<u>6,463</u>

The income generated by these investments is to be used when necessary for maintenance of the respective rooms at Student House.

19. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	General fund	Revaluation reserve	Sub-total	Designated funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Balance at 1 January 2023	629,572	225,135	854,707	200,000	1,054,707
Gains realised on disposal of listed investments	(4,647)	4,647	-	-	-
Increase in market value of listed investments	-	(7,339)	(7,339)	-	(7,339)
Net incoming (excluding net gains on investments)	15,953	-	15,953	-	15,953
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 December 2023	<u>640,878</u>	<u>222,443</u>	<u>863,321</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>1,063,321</u>

Designated funds

Major maintenance of Student House

During 2007 the Trustees decided to establish a Building Maintenance Fund to cover the major cyclical maintenance of Student House.

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

19a UNRESTRICTED FUNDS – Prior Year	General fund	Revaluation reserve	Sub-total	Designated funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Balance at 1 January 2022	622,803	240,522	863,325	200,000	1,063,325
Gains realised on disposal of listed investments	(10,773)	10,773	-	-	-
Increase in market value of listed investments	-	(26,160)	(26,160)	-	(26,160)
Net incoming (excluding net gains on investments)	17,542	-	17,542	-	17,542
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 December 2022	629,572	225,135	854,707	200,000	1,054,707

20. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	General fund	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment fund	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	609,031	-	-	-	609,031
Fixed asset investments	182,047	200,000	33,013	22,000	437,060
Cash at bank	68,753	-	8,985	-	77,738
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	3,490	-	-	-	3,490
Balance at 31 December 2023	863,321	200,000	41,998	22,000	1,127,319

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

20a ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS – Prior year

	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	622,659	-	-	-	622,659
Fixed asset investments	127,449	200,000	39,801	23,294	390,544
Cash at bank	134,225	-	6,907	-	141,132
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	(29,626)	-	-	-	(29,626)
Balance at 31 December 2022	854,707	200,000	46,708	23,294	1,124,709

21. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

Total future minimum lease payments under current operating leases are as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than one year	480	-
Later than one and not later than five years	1,827	-
	2,307	-

22. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There are no related party transactions to disclose for the current or the prior year.

The pages that follow do not
form part of the statutory
financial statements of the Charity

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE FOR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDSHIP

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Headquarters	2023	2022
	£	£
Income		
Donations and legacies	2,788	2,240
Dividends and interest	14,701	13,473
Membership fees	1,705	2,242
Sundry income	4,474	3,704
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	23,668	21,659
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenditure		
Depreciation	5,821	5,821
Donation to Council of Commonwealth Societies	2,000	2,000
Corporate membership	785	863
Cost of goods and events	6,299	5,600
Repairs and maintenance	5,014	6,268
Salaries and associated costs	27,414	31,393
Printing, stationery, and postage	1,897	1,497
Travel expenses	76	22
Telephone	190	164
Entertainment, receptions and meetings	818	643
Bank charges	(745)	(55)
Audit and accountancy fees	7,839	7,700
Professional fees	8,416	22,064
Advertising	7,165	6,444
Other staff costs	805	337
Patron's Fund	250	250
Donations	4,969	9,640
Sundry expenses	145	447
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	79,158	101,098
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net operating deficit	(55,490)	(79,443)
Students' house net operating (loss)/gain	63,448	77,897
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Operating (loss) for the year	7,958	(1,542)
Investment (losses)/gains	(3,348)	(20,554)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net (deficit)/surplus for the year	4,610	(22,096)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Victoria League Students' House	2023	2022
	£	£
Income		
Accommodation	321,409	297,556
Coin machine income	3,589	3,184
Donations for maintenance	-	49
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	324,998	300,789
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Administration and operating expenses		
Insurance	13,656	12,951
Council tax and water rates	3,675	5,513
Lighting and heating	32,409	22,514
Cleaning	10,193	11,677
Maintenance - Furnishings	2,734	560
Garden and patio	1,525	1,948
Premises	21,981	14,482
Lifts and equipment	14,048	11,549
Depreciation of equipment	23,636	23,274
Salaries and associated costs	126,506	110,459
Kitchen utensils	319	351
Stores and laundry	2,100	799
Printing, postage and stationery	10	31
Telephone	60	35
Entertainment, receptions and meetings	1,577	2,294
Audit and accountancy fees	3,914	1,750
Professional fees	1,867	1,750
Sundry expenses	16	6
Bank charges	1,324	949
Bad debt write off	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	261,550	222,892
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net operating (loss)/gain	63,448	77,897
	<hr/>	<hr/>