



A REGISTERED CHARITY No. 214524

Founded in Coventry in 1893

PATRON

David Moorcroft OBE

THE CHILDREN'S BOOT FUND



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST MAY 2024**

The Coventry Children's Boot Fund is delighted to be supported by the organisations mentioned below



K B Benfield Group Holdings Ltd.
Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouse Trust

Tile Hill and Westwood Charities
Whirlwind Productions

THE CHILDREN'S BOOT FUND

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THE CHILDREN'S BOOT FUND

CHARITY INFORMATION

Trustees	Chairperson	Janet McConkey
	Secretary	Peter Hancock
	Treasurer	Matthew White (Appointed 20/05/24)
	Vice Chair	Lucy Hardstaff William Smith Pat Timmins Jackie Lapworth Suzanne Whiteman Jenny Watkins
Independent Examiner		Susan Wyllie FCA
Bankers		National Westminster Bank plc 24 Broadgate Coventry CV1 1NB
Website		www.childrensbootfund.org.uk
Registered Number		Charity Commissioners 214524

THE CHILDREN'S BOOT FUND

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MAY 2024

Chairperson's Report

In 1889 George Gibson began his teaching career in Coventry. He was given Standard IV, a class of boys many of whom were "wretchedly clothed, under nourished and almost bootless". With the Head Teachers permission, George placed a "boot box" on his desk and invited visitors and better-off boys to contribute towards the purchase of boots – "in order that they might attend school".

Four years later, at a local newspaper office, a meeting of well-known businessmen of the day decided to launch a city-wide fund involving all Coventry schools. Joseph Cash, William Hillman, John Gulson, Dr Webb-Folwer, Thomas Burbage, George Gibson and a police sergeant named Shelly attended the inaugural meeting.

Today in 2024, the Children's Boot Fund is still very much alive and kicking. After two World Wars and years of gloom followed by years of boom, this unique Charity continues to provide footwear to children of poor families "in order that they may attend school".

The fund has changed a little in its lifetime. The only real difference is perhaps the fact that a reputable Coventry supplier measures children for properly fitting shoes. Gone are the often-ill-fitting hob-nailed boots for boys and high lace up type for girls – all boots branded with an iron stamp to "prevent them going to places other than intended". – a reference to the popular pawnshops of the day.

Today, the Management Committee are responsible for the application of vouchers, which when presented by the parent/guardian of the recipient at Charles Ager in Coventry, entitles the bearer to a pair of shoes suitable for school. Applications are made by parents/guardians, supported by Head Teachers, through all Coventry Schools, where forms are made available to all families. Applications are reviewed by the Trustees at four meetings each year and vouchers allocated on individual merit. The Fund has also been able to support refugee children in the current year and all appeals from refugees are dealt with immediately due to the urgent nature of their circumstances.

Fundraising has increased this year compared to 2023 and the Committee had established additional fundraising with the Charities Aid Fund who also administers our Gift Aid Scheme. There has been a significant demand for shoes this year, including supporting refugees, and it is expected to continue in the current economic climate. It is always difficult to strike balance between securing the future and meeting today's needs. However, the Trustees are aware that it is important to continue to raise funds as more families require help. The Trustees wish to thank everyone who has generously contributed to our funds during the past year as they are well aware of the financial constraints that we are all experiencing at this time.

Website developer company Noisegate Media has worked with Gail Downey for the Boot Fund at a non-profit, cost only basis, giving great value in helping to make the very generous funding provided by Clive Benfield extend much further to assist our visibility and fundraising.

THE CHILDREN'S BOOT FUND

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MAY 2024

Chairperson's Report (continued)

However, the committee is still suffering from a shortage of members. We therefore ask again, that anyone in the education system willing to join a very dedicated children's Charity should get in touch with any of the Fund officials, who will then be happy to answer any questions and give an explanation of the workings of the Charity.

The Committees' thanks go to Charles Ager who have been particularly supportive and given excellent service to customers and good advice to the Committee.

Lastly, on behalf of the Committee of the Children's Boot Fund, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all other people who have raised funds in many different ways, often using a great deal of their own time and effort. Without your efforts, the Fund simply would not exist to help children in the Coventry area, and to lose the Fund after so many years of work would be a real tragedy, both now and in the future.

Treasurer's Report

On the 9th July 2024 Martin Harban who had been the Treasurer for the last 21 years sadly lost his courageous fight against Cancer. This Charity owes a huge debt of gratitude for all of his work not only dealing with the role of the Treasurer but also for his outstanding fundraising activities. If you will pardon the pun Martin's death has left large boots to fill and I am delighted to have been appointed as the Treasurer to this amazing Charity. It has been a steep learning curve having taken on the role just prior to the year end and I am grateful to the Board of Trustees for their support and encouragement and advice they have given to me in these early months of my tenure. I would also personally like to thank Martin's Secretary Valerie Tunnicliff for all of her work over the past decade and also Susan Wyllie in her capacity as Independent Examiner for her words of wisdom and guidance whilst I have been trying to prepare the accounts for the first time.

The Trustee's reserves policy will be to continue to maintain a level of reserves at about two and a half years funding because of the difficulty in predicting the level of donations from year to year. Currently the reserves are sufficient for approximately two years to meet the continuing expected high level of need and the increase in shoe costs. Trustees are actively looking at ways to fundraise. Without further additional donations the number of shoes provided will have to be reduced.

In previous years in the preparation of the accounts there has been a distribution of vouchers to the recipients following the Trustees Meeting in May. A number of these vouchers are utilised in June, July, August and even early September which coincides with the start of the new School Year. In the past the accounts have been prepared in early September and the exact numbers of vouchers being presented to the local school shoe firm Charles Ager's was not crystallised. This year due to the delay in the preparation of the annual accounts we have been able to use the exact figures for the vouchers being used and therefore for this year there has been a slight change in the accounting procedures.

THE CHILDREN'S BOOT FUND

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MAY 2024

Treasurer's Report (continued)

The Trustees have acknowledged this and have agreed that in principle in future years we will continue to prepare the accounts towards the end of September/October when the number of vouchers utilised that have been distributed in the financial year ending the 31st May is known and that way we will presenting the accounts on a like for like basis going forward.

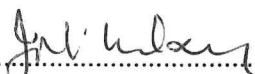
The Trustees wish to thank all supporting schools in the difficult economic climate, the generous gifts of the Barston Association, Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire, Claverdon Fields Charitable Trust together with numerous Masonic Lodges, Coventry Church (Municipal) Charities and especially the Dame Alice Leigh Almshouse Charity, Tile Hill & Westwood Charities, Soothern & Craner and Newfield Charitable Trust who have been particularly generous in their donations to this Charity.

The Charity endeavours to hold as much cash as possible in an interest-bearing account. For this financial year the expenditure over income was £701.36 for the unrestricted funds and £1,327.67 for the restricted funds giving a total deficit of £2,029.03.

All administration and committee membership is voluntary and there are no employed members of the Charity. Administration costs are currently being met by the Tile Hill and Westwood Charities. Meetings are held by the kind permission of the Secretary at his home free of charge.

The Children's Boot Fund can be contacted by calling the Secretary on 027475 01422 or by email to thecoventrychildrensbootfund@gmail.com

ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES


.....
Mrs J McConkey
Chairperson

24.3.25
.....
Dated

THE CHILDREN'S BOOT FUND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CHILDREN'S BOOT FUND

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st May 2024, which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider the audit requirement of S144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) does not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to: examine the accounts under S145 of the 2011 Act; to follow the procedures laid down in the General Direction given by the Charity Commission under S145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiners statement

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

1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- To keep accounting records in accordance with S130 of the 2011 Act; and
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met.

2) There are no other matters to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


.....
Mrs S V Wyllie FCA


.....
Dated

THE CHILDREN'S BOOT FUND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

			2024 £	2023 £
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	Notes			
Incoming resources				
Donations	4			
Schools		374.00		146.05
Individuals		1606.77		2452.70
Organisations		11545.50		7575.85
Gift Aid		220.92		312.25
Legacies				
Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouse	6		5500.00	4000.00
The Newfield Charitable Trust	6		2500.00	
Tile Hill and Westwood Charities	6		2500.00	5000.00
Soothern & Craner S C Grant	6		1000.00	
		13747.19	11500.00	19487.85
Investment income		1328.29		809.82
Total incoming resources		15075.48	11500.00	20297.67
Resources expended				
Direct charitable expenditure		15776.84	12236.27	29178.81
Management and administration of the charity	2		591.40	853.66
Total resources expended		15776.84	12827.67	30032.47
Net outgoing/incoming resources		-701.36	-1327.67	-9734.80
Other gains and losses				
Unrealised gains	3	716.46		-512.73
		15.10	-1327.67	-10247.53
Fund balance brought forward 01 June 2023		31371.48	7756.30	49375.31
Fund balance carried forward 31 May 2024		31386.58	6428.63	39127.78

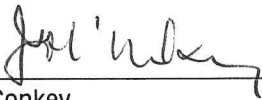
The accompanying notes form part of these accounts

THE CHILDREN'S BOOT FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MAY 2024

		2024	2023
		£	£
	Notes		
Fixed assets			
Investments	3	11778.75	11062.29
Current assets			
Bank balances		32724.59	30446.41
Creditors:- amount falling due within one year			
Accruals		<u>6688.13</u>	<u>2380.92</u>
net current assets		<u>26036.46</u>	<u>28065.49</u>
		<u>37815.21</u>	<u>39127.78</u>
Funds			
Unrestricted funds		31386.58	31371.48
	6		
Restricted funds		<u>6428.73</u>	<u>7756.30</u>
		<u>37786.58</u>	<u>39127.78</u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 24th MARCH 2025 and signed on its behalf by:-



 Mrs J McConkey
 Chairperson

The accompanying notes form part of these accounts.

THE CHILDREN'S BOOT FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

1. Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with the items that are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

- a. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention as adjusted by the revaluation of investments. The accounts are in accordance with the Charities SORP 2005 (Accounting and Reporting by Charities) and comply with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2005 issued under the Charities Act 2011.
- b. The financial statements are prepared on an accruals basis.
- c. Investments are included in the balance sheet at market value.
- d. Legacies are accounted for when the charity has been notified before the end of the financial year and the value can be reasonably accurately determined.
- e. Donations are accounted for on a receipts basis.
- f. Expenditure relates to the purchase of children's shoes.

2. Management and administration of the charity

The administration costs of the Charity are currently being met by Tile Hill and Westwood Charities. All management costs are being met by The Boot Fund.

3. Investment Assets

	Quoted Investments £
Market value at 1 June 2023	11062.29
Net unrealised gains	716.46
Market value at 31 May 2024	<u>11778.75</u>

The historical cost of investments is not known as they were all donated to the Charity some years ago and it has not been possible to identify the value of them at that time.

The following investments were held by the Charity and all represent more than 5% of the portfolio:-

	Market Value £
COIF Charities Investments Fund	
317 income units	6325.83
M&G Equities Investments Fund for Charities	
356 Income units	5452.92
	<u>11,778.75</u>

THE CHILDREN'S BOOT FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

4. Donations

From Organisations:-

	£
Inner Wheel Club Coventry	210.00
Radford Social Club	785.50
St Mary Magdalen Church	300.00
Claverdon Fields Charitable Trust	1500.00
Widgit Software	350.00
Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire	1000.00
The Recessionaires	250.00
Allesley Festival	500.00
Earlsdon Methodist Church	100.00
Coventry & District Cricket League	200.00
Coventry Church (Municipal) Charities	350.00
Trinity Lodge	500.00
Singer Foundation	500.00
The Barston Association	500.00
Trustees of London Order of St John	2000.00
Bonds Hospital	2000.00
Guy's Cliffe Lodge	500.00
	<u>11,545.50</u>

From Schools:-

	£
Stivichall Primary School	200.00
Sidney Stringer Academy	153.00
Sidney Stringer Primary	21.00
	<u>374.00</u>

From Individuals-

	£
P.G Roberts	60.00
E Markin	24.00
M Stuart	60.00
Mrs Bradford	120.00
Mrs C Lord	50.00
Deepak Lodhia - Just Giving	390.93
Donations via CAF	902.84
	<u>1607.77</u>

5. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

No remuneration directly or indirectly out of the funds of the charity was paid or is payable for the year to any trustee or to any person or persons known to be connected with any of them.

THE CHILDREN'S BOOT FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

6. Restricted Funds

	Newfield Trust	Tile Hill and Westwood Charities	Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouses	Soothern & Craner	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Balance at 31st May 2023	0	7022.55	2895.71	0	9918.26
Donations in year	2500.00	2500.00	5500.00	1000.00	11500.00
Expenditure in year	2500.00	1712.80	4505.87	928.32	9646.99
Balance 31 May 2024	0.00	7809.75	3889.84	71.68	11771.27

The restricted funds comprise a donation from Tile Hill and Westwood Charities to provide shoes for the children living within the Tile Hill and Westwood areas and Dame Alice Leigh's Almshouse donation is for the children living within the Stoneleigh Estates. Both the Newfield Charitable Trust and Soothern & Craner are restricted to provide shoes for girls.

7. Related Parties

Prior to his death Mr Martin Harban was a Trustee of the Coventry Church (Municipal) Charities and Charity Steward of Trinity Lodge and the Trinity Lodge Benevolent Fund.