

THE BIRCH, SAMSON AND LITTLETON UNITED CHARITIES
Registered Charity number: 218971

ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2024

Dains Audit Ltd
Chartered Accountants
St Johns Court
Wiltell Road
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS14 9DS

**THE BIRCH, SAMSON AND LITTLETON UNITED CHARITIES
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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**THE BIRCH, SAMSON AND LITTLETON UNITED CHARITIES
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Reference and administrative information

Trustees:	Mr P Conway	Chairman
	Mr D Briggs	Vice chairman
	Mrs B Astley	
	Mrs E Coles	
	Mrs E Sherratt	
	Mrs C Upton	
	Revd C Leighton	
	Mrs E Smith	appointed 10 October 2023
	Mrs R Jones	appointed 9 April 2024

Clerk to the trustees: Mrs S Brockhurst

Clerk's office: The Pines
Mount Road
Rugeley
Staffordshire
WS15 2TL

Charity Number: 218971

Regulator of Social Housing: A4028

Independent Examiner: Mark Gurney FCCA, DChA
of Dains Audit Ltd
St Johns Court
Wiltell Road
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS14 9DS

Bankers: National Westminster Bank
31 Market Square
Rugeley
Staffordshire
WS15 2BW

THE BIRCH, SAMSON AND LITTLETON UNITED CHARITIES
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024
Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity Commission Scheme dated 23 October 2014, the Charities Act 2011 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 effective 1 January 2019.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Birch, Samson and Littleton United Charities was formed following the amalgamation of Birch and Samson United Charities (registered charity number 218971) and The Littleton Homes at Rugeley (registered charity number 1153780). It is governed by a Charity Commission Scheme dated 23 October 2014.

The scheme allows for the appointment of nine managing trustees. They are appointed at a special meeting of the trustees to serve for a term of four years.

The trustees met regularly throughout the year to discuss the charity's affairs, including consideration of investment, reserves and risk management policies.

The charity keeps the skill requirements for its trustee body under review and in the event that there is a vacancy, the Board seeks nominations from people within the local community who have the necessary skills and interest. The induction process for any newly appointed trustee comprises an initial meeting with the Board of Trustees, at which a pack is provided. This includes a copy of the governing document, a copy of the latest accounts, a copy of the Charity Commission Guidance 'The Essential Trustee' and 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Risk Review

The trustees have examined the major internal and external risks which the Charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to minimise these risks.

Objects and Activities

The charity is administered by the Clerk, who acts under instructions from the trustees.

The Birch, Samson and Littleton United Charities comprises thirteen almshouses situated in Armitage, Brereton and Rugeley.

The objects of the charity are:

the relief of poverty by the provision of social housing in the form of almshouse accommodation for poor persons, with a preference for persons of 50 years of age or over; and

such charitable purposes for the benefit of the residents as the trustees decide.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. Residents shall first and foremost be in need. Preference is given to those with some connection to the area.

**THE BIRCH, SAMSON AND LITTLETON UNITED CHARITIES
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (Continued)**

Review of Progress and Achievements

The trustees are pleased to report that the almshouses have been fully occupied during the year. The trustees continue to maintain the almshouses to a high standard.

Reserves Policy

Funds at 31 March 2024 totalled £1,668,102 comprising permanent endowment £1,127,100, a designated extraordinary repairs fund £164,332, a designated cyclical maintenance fund £22,731 and unrestricted income funds of £353,939.

Free reserves are held to cover working capital requirements and future repair costs.

The balance held at 31 March 2023 falls within the range agreed by the trustees.

Investment Policy

The trustees have considered the most appropriate policy for investing funds and have found that specialised unit trusts, designed for charity sector, meet their requirements. The performance of the investments is monitored by the trustees on a regular basis.

Trustees' Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those 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;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any 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 accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Date D Briggs
 09 July 2024



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BIRCH, SAMSON AND LITTLETON UNITED CHARITIES

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 5-9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair view" which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mark Gurney FCCA, DChA
of Dains Audit Ltd
St John's Court
Wiltell Road
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS14 9DS

09 July 2024

THE BIRCH, SAMSON AND LITTLETON UNITED CHARITIES
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Income Fund £	Other Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income					
Maintenance contributions receivable		53,922		53,922	53,929
Bank interest		2,914	1,980	4,894	1,747
Income from listed investments		1,795		1,795	1,795
Total income		58,631	1,980	60,611	57,471
Expenditure					
Clerk		15,381		15,381	14,607
Repairs and maintenance		16,888		16,888	8,543
Heat, light and water		1,243		1,243	1,091
Services		7,495		7,495	7,913
Insurance		1,975		1,975	1,401
Trustee indemnity insurance		291		291	291
Sundry expenses		1,251		1,251	843
Almshouse Association subscription		487		487	313
Independent examiners fees		1,062		1,062	1,014
HCA annual subscription		300		300	300
Professional fees		870		870	428
Legionella testing				-	663
Depreciation			18,200	18,200	18,200
Total		47,243	18,200	65,443	55,607
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Gains/(losses) on investment assets (note 6)		22,518	18,011	40,529	34,966
Net income/(expenditure)		33,906	1,791	35,697	36,830
Transfer between funds (note 8)					
Net movement in funds		33,906	1,791	35,697	(2,977)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances brought forward		320,033	1,312,372	1,632,405	1,635,382
Fund Balances carried forward		353,939	1,314,163	1,668,102	1,632,405

THE BIRCH, SAMSON AND LITTLETON UNITED CHARITIES
BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed Assets					
Housing Properties	2b and 5		1,127,100		1,145,300
Listed Investments	2c and 6		<u>385,442</u>		<u>344,913</u>
			1,512,542		1,490,213
Current Assets					
Debtors and Prepayments	7	4,060		1,431	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>154,287</u>		<u>141,775</u>	
		158,347		143,206	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors		<u>2,787</u>		<u>1,014</u>	
		2,787		1,014	
Net Current Assets			155,560		142,192
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			1,668,102		1,632,405
Net Assets			<u>1,668,102</u>		<u>1,632,405</u>
Capital and Reserves					
Permanent Endowment	8		1,127,100		1,145,300
Designated Reserves	8				
Extraordinary Repairs Fund			164,332		146,321
Cyclical Maintenance Fund			22,731		20,751
Unrestricted Income Fund			<u>353,939</u>		<u>320,033</u>
			<u>1,668,102</u>		<u>1,632,405</u>

These accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 9 July 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

C Leighton


D Briggs



**THE BIRCH, SAMSON AND LITTLETON UNITED CHARITIES
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1. Establishment of Birch, Samson and Littleton United Charities

The Birch, Samson and Littleton United Charities is regulated by a Charity Commission scheme dated 23 October 2014.

It was formed following the amalgamation of Birch and Samson United Charities and the Littleton Homes at Rugeley.

2. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

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) effective 01/01/2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

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

The accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis.

(b) Housing Properties

Housing Properties are included at insurance value as at December 2015.

Depreciation is provided on freehold property at 2% per annum on a straight line basis.

No depreciation is provided in respect of the land element.

(c) Investments

Listed investments are stated at market value.

(d) Extraordinary Repairs Fund

This designated reserve represents amounts set aside to carry out major repairs on the Housing Properties.

(e) Cyclical Maintenance Fund

This designated reserve represents amounts set aside for cyclical maintenance.

(f) Permanent Endowment

The permanent endowment represents those funds which must be held permanently by the charity. Income arising on this fund is included as unrestricted income.

(g) Unrestricted Income Fund

The unrestricted income fund comprises those funds which the trustees are free to use in accordance with the charitable objects.

3. Trustees Remuneration, Expenses and Related Party Transactions

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

No expenses have been paid during the year (2023-nil).

4. Taxation

The Birch, Samson and Littleton United Charities is a registered Charity and is therefore exempt from liability to taxation on its income and capital gains.

THE BIRCH, SAMSON AND LITTLETON UNITED CHARITIES
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5. Housing Properties

	2024	2023
	£	£
Housing properties (note 2b)	1,300,000	1,300,000
Depreciation at 31 March 2023	154,700	136,500
Charge for the year	18,200	18,200
Depreciation at 31 March 2024	172,900	154,700
Net book value 31 March 2024	1,127,100	1,145,300

6. Listed Investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Market value brought forward	344,913	349,754
Net unrealised investment gains/(losses)	40,529	(4,841)
Market value at 31 March 2023	385,442	344,913
Investments comprise the following:		
Unrestricted income fund:		
3,295 COIF income units	67,336	61,671
598 COIF accumulation units	153,774	136,921
Extraordinary repair fund		
639 COIF accumulation units	164,332	146,321
	385,442	344,913

7. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments	3,474	1,431
Maintenance contributions	586	
	4,060	1,431

THE BIRCH, SAMSON AND LITTLETON UNITED CHARITIES
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8. Other Funds

	Endowment Fund	Extraordinary Repair Fund	Cyclical Maintenance Fund	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Balances at 1 April 2023	1,145,300	146,321	20,751	1,312,372
Bank interest			1,980	1,980
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investment revaluation		18,011		18,011
Depreciation	(18,200)			(18,200)
Transfer income account				-
Balances at 31 March 2024	1,127,100	164,332	22,731	1,314,163

	Endowment Fund	Extraordinary Repair Fund	Cyclical Maintenance Fund	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Balances at 1 April 2022	1,163,500	147,581	10,048	1,321,129
Bank interest			703	703
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investment revaluation		(1,260)		(1,260)
Depreciation	(18,200)			(18,200)
Transfer income account			10,000	10,000
Balances at 31 March 2023	1,145,300	146,321	20,751	1,312,372

9. The Assets and Liabilities of the Charity are represented by the Funds as detailed below:

	Income Fund	Endowment Fund	Extraordinary Repair Fund	Cyclical Maintenance Fund	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Housing Properties		1,127,100			1,127,100
Investments	221,110		164,332		385,442
Current Assets	135,616			22,731	158,347
Creditors: Due within 1 year	(2,787)				(2,787)
	353,939	1,127,100	164,332	22,731	1,668,102

The comparative information is as follows:

	Income Fund	Endowment Fund	Extraordinary Repair Fund	Cyclical Maintenance Fund	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Housing Properties		1,145,300			1,145,300
Investments	188,128		156,785		344,913
Current Assets	122,455			20,751	143,206
Creditors: Due within 1 year	(1,014)				(1,014)
	309,569	1,145,300	156,785	20,751	1,632,405

