

The Report of the Trustees and Accounts
of
THE SEDGEFIELD DISTRICT RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY
(Charity number: 230395)
and
THE HOWLE HOPE ESTATE
(Charity number: 230409)
for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Co-opted Trustees:

Dr. Christine Hearmon (Chairperson), Mr. Michael King (Vice-chairperson),
Mr. Alan Thompson, Mrs Val Wilson, Mrs Sue Dobson.

Nominated Trustees:

Cllrs. Alan Blakemore and Cllr David Brown (Sedgefield Town Council),
Mr. Robert Elders (vice-Chairperson) (Mordon and Bradbury Parish Meetings),
Mr Brian Mutch and Mrs Rachel Stephenson (Upper Skerne Parochial Church Council),
Cllr. Penny Pearson (Fishburn Parish Council),
Cllr. Dr. Stephen Drew (Cornforth Parish Council),
Cllr Geoff Turner (Bishop Middleham Parish Council),
Cllr Robert Gilbert (Trimdon Parish Council).

Clerks to the Trustees: Ms Anne Gladwin and Mr Simon Nott.

Address: both at, 46 Whitehouse Drive, Sedgefield, Stockton-on-Tees, TS21 3BU.

STATUS AND OPERATION OF THE CHARITIES

Governance

Sedgefield District Relief in Need Charity is an unincorporated charity governed by a scheme granted by the Charity Commissioners in 1998. Under this title it has drawn together the endowments and objectives of many smaller charities, dating from 1630 to 1933, set up for the benefit of the parishioners of Sedgefield and the surrounding villages.

The Board of Trustees for the Relief in Need Charity is also responsible for the Howle Hope Estate Charity. Similarly, the Howle Hope Estate Charity is an unincorporated charity governed by a scheme granted in 2000. The Estate, formerly Howle Hope Farm, was jointly owned by the Relief in Need Charity and the Sedgefield Educational Foundation from 1734 until its disposal in 2000. The proceeds of the sale are invested to provide income for the work of the Relief in Need and the Education Foundation charities. The income is split 78:22 respectively, reflecting the charities' original interests in the farm. The three charities work closely together, being known locally as the "Sedgefield Charities". The charities have a number of Trustees in common, but, since the Foundation's area of benefit is smaller than that of the Relief in Need Charity, the composition of the Boards differ slightly.

The Trustees meet twice a year to consider applications for help. Requests are made to the Clerks to the Trustees. The Clerks gather the relevant information on behalf of the Board. With respect to applications for assistance, all decisions are made by the Board of Trustees or by the Chair of the Board, perhaps in consultation with the Vice-chair. The decision process may differ dependent on the urgency associated with the application. Urgent applications which are received between meetings, usually for the needs of an individual, are approved by the Chair. There may be wider discussions between the Chair and Vice-chair or among the Trustees by e-mail.

Total Return powers

On the 31st December, 2010, Trustees were granted Total Return powers by the Charity Commission. The powers enable Trustees to apply, for the objectives of the Trusts, any real growth in the permanent endowments of the charities in addition to accumulated interest from investments and funds held in bank accounts. In applying these funds, Trustees must give consideration to the needs of the present beneficiaries and to preserving the ability of the permanent endowment to meet the needs of future beneficiaries (See note to the accounts).

Area of Benefit

The Charities can provide "relief in need" either directly to individuals or to other charitable bodies providing the same sort of help within the area of benefit. The area of benefit broadly covers the present civil parishes of Bishop Middleham, Bradbury, Cornforth, Fishburn, Mordon, Sedgefield and Trimdon.

Nature of Help

Help can be given by gifts of money, by the provision of goods, equipment, either outright or on loan, or by providing services. Support may be offered in cases of hardship, infirmity, disability or other handicap. For examples, in the provision of furnishings or bedding, medical requisites, mobility aids, the funding of hospital visiting, transport for the disabled, fees for education or training and the purchase of books, assisting with living expenses and providing respite care.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS IN 2022

The general economic pressures suffered by the nation through 2022 have had an adverse impact on the performance of the investments of the Charity. The grants provided during 2022 were not restricted by the levels of funds available to the Charity for distribution. In the year, the Charity was able to fund all the applications it received and that were both eligible and supported by the Trustees. In 2023 the levels of funding available for the Charity for distribution may become limited by the performance of the investments, the Trustees should remain mindful that their capacity to distribute grants may become restricted.

Quality of life

There was an increase of almost 22% in the value of grants made in 2022 when compared with those made in the previous year. The number of applications in the previous year having been effected by the COVID pandemic. When compared to the previous year, increased support was provided for relief in need to individuals and families and organisations and through educational grants to individuals.

A total of 16 relief in need grants were provided to individuals, at an average of £325 per grant. Grants were provided to 4 organisations. The Sedgefield Pop in Club and Citizen's Advice receiving the two largest grants at £8,000 and £6,000 respectively.

Education and Training

Relief in Need offers help to students pursuing courses beyond A level but who fall outside the remit of the Sedgefield Educational Foundation – often because they are over 25 or outside the Foundation's area of benefit.

A total of 4 education grants were funded in 2022 with a total value of £2,100. This represented a 75% increase in the value of grants when compared to the value of the education grants distributed in the previous year.

In this year, no funding was provided to the Sedgefield Education Foundation. It has been the usual practice for the Relief In Need Charity to cover the value of the education grants distributed by the Foundation by making an annual grant to the Foundation. The reason for not making a grant this year was that the Trustees of both charities decided to let the Foundation distribute the funds it had held in its bank account for a number of years. It is expected that the Relief In Need Charity will resume the funding of the grants provided by the Education Foundation in 2023 and in following years.

HOWLE HOPE ESTATE

In what might be considered normal years, the investments of the Howle Hope Estate produce income which is divided between the Relief in Need Charity and the Education Foundation. At the end of each quarter such income is normally transferred to the Accumulation of Income accounts of the Relief in Need Charity and the Educational Foundation portfolios in the ratio 78:22 for re-investment. In this year, due to the performance of the Howle Hope Estate investments, no payments were made.

FINANCE

With regard to the investments of the Relief in Need Charity, a strategy of long-term steady growth has been maintained. The investments have been arranged to reflect a set of ethical criteria. The risks associated with the investments have remained at a moderate rating. The investments remain in the management of 7IM with ongoing independent advice from Mr John Pilkington.

DEVELOPMENT

The responsibilities of the Clerk to the Trustees have remained with Anne Gladwin and Simon Nott. The Clerks work jointly in the role. In 2022, Cllr Valerie Wilson came to the end of her term in October.

The links with health, social work and education professionals were maintained in 2022. The network of contacts includes a number of organisations that make referrals for grants on behalf of individuals that find themselves in need of support. The details of the Charity appear on a number of local and national websites providing access for those seeking help. The details of the charity are also promoted in the local media and periodically on posters distributed by the Clerks within the area of benefit.

LEGAL AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Holding Trustees: Dr. Hearmon, Mr King and Mr. Elders are the nominated Holding Trustees for all the investments of Relief in Need and Howle Hope.

Solicitors: Meikles, Sedgefield.

Bankers: Barclays.

Financial Adviser: J. Pilkington, Prism Financial Advice Ltd, 6 Eaton Close, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE38 9DN.

Independent Examination of Accounts: The accounts are examined by A B Cannings, ACA, of 22 Hardwick Road, Sedgefield, TS21 2AL.

ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

The Annual Report & Accounts for 2022 of the Sedgefield District Relief in Need Charity and of the Howle Hope Estate were adopted by the Trustees of the said charity at their ordinary meeting held this day.

For and behalf of the Trustees,



C. J. Hearmon (Chairperson)

15th March 2023

Independent Assessor's statement.

To the Trustees of Sedgefield District Relief in Need Charity and of Howle Hope Estate:

I report on the accounts of the Sedgefield District Relief in Need Charity and of Howle Hope Estate for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out overleaf and detailed in the attached appendices.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

Basis of the independent examiner's 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 disclosure in the account, 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 I do not express an opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement:

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

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



Andrew B Cannings ACA
22 Hardwick Road
Sedgefield
Co Durham

24 March 2023

NOTES TO THE 2022 ACCOUNTS

The implications of Total Return powers

Trustees set the baseline for the exercise of Total Return powers at 31st December, 2008. It is from this point that the real value of the Permanent Endowment is to be protected, that is, by the application of an inflation index. Consequently, the value of funds available for application at any time may be calculated.

The permanent endowments as of 01st January 2022:
(by application of inflation indices since the baseline date).

Relief in Need	£590,789
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Howle Hope Estate	£172,489
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Government figures give CPI for 2022 (12 months to the end of December 2022) as 10.5%.

The permanent endowments as of 31st December 2022:
(by application of inflation indices of 2022 to the values for 01 January 2022)

Relief in Need	£652,822
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Howle Hope Estate	£190,601
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Comparison of these figures with total assets (including bank accounts) at those dates gives the total funds for application.

Funds available for application as at 01st January 2022:

Relief in Need:	£222,421
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Howle Hope Estate:	£33,640
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Funds available for application as at 31st December 2022:

Relief in Need:	£36,109
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Howle Hope Estate:	-£12,256
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The funds available for application have decreased in value from £256,061 as at 01st January 2022 to £23,853 as at 31st December 2022. For the Sedgefield Relief in Need Charity, as at 01 January 2023, funds to a value of £36,109 are available for application.

Appendix 1

Income and expenditure account

	2022	
Income		
Withdrawn from investments	£30,000.00	
Bank interest	<u>£12.73</u>	
	£30,012.73	
Expenditure		
Charitable Grants	£27,310.20	
Management Expenses	<u>£4,077.64</u>	
	£31,387.84	
Excess income over expenditure		<u>£1,375.11</u>

	2022	
Cash statement		
Cash at bank 1st January, deposit account	£13,927.84	
Cash at bank 1st January, current account	<u>£375.47</u>	
	£14,303.31	
Excess income over expenditure	<u>£1,375.11</u>	
		<u>£12,928.20</u>
Cash at bank 31 December, deposit account	£12,552.07	
Cash at bank 31st December, current account	<u>£376.13</u>	
	£12,928.20	

Appendix 2

Details of Expenditure

	2022	2021
Relief in Need		
Christmas Distribution	£120.00 *	£0.00
Quality of life		
To individuals	£5,090.20	£4,086.80
To organisations:		
Sedgefield Pop-in Club	£8,000.00	£5,000.00
Marie Curie Cancer Centre	£2,000.00	
Citizens' Advice	£6,000.00	£6,000.00
Memory Café		£180.00
Bishop Middleham Church	£4,000.00	
Training		
To individuals:		
Education Grants	£2,100.00	£1,200.00
To organisations:		
Sedgefield Education Foundation	£0.00 **	£6,000.00
Total charitable payments	£27,310.20	£22,466.80
Room Hire	£41.00	£35.00
Clerks Expenses	£3,802.64 ***	£2,306.98
Financial legal identifiers	£234.00	£324.00
Total management costs	£4,077.64	£2,665.98
Total expenditure	£31,387.84	£25,132.78

* The Christmas distributions for both 2021 and 2022 are recorded in the accounts for this year, the contributions for Christmas 2021 were distributed prior to Christmas 2021, however, they were withdrawn from the bank account in January 2022.

** In this year, no grant was provided to the Education Foundation which has been the usual practice, in 2022, the Foundation distributed grants using funds that had remain in its bank account for a number of years.

*** The Clerks receive expenses, payments being made each quarter usually in retrospect, in 2021, three quarterly payments were recorded in the accounts, in 2022, five quarterly payments were recorded in the accounts, the payment for quarter 4 of 2021 having been paid early in 2022. Over the two years, the Clerks received eight quarterly payments.

Appendix 3
Sedgefield District Relief In Need Charity and Howle Hope Estate Charity:
investment details

Sedgefield District Relief In Need Charity

Account	Value at 31 st December 2022	Value at 31 st December 2021
Permanent Endowment	£546,086	£658,675
Accumulated Interest	£129,915	£140,232
Totals	£676,002	£798,907

Howle Hope Estate Charity

Account	Value at 31 st December 2022	Value at 31 st December 2021
Permanent Endowment	£178,345	£206,129
Accumulated Interest	£0	£0
Totals	£178,345	£206,129

Note - income in the Howle Hope account is reinvested in Relief in Need and Education Foundation
 Accumulation of Interest accounts in the ratio 78:22