

**Battersea
United
Charities**



Battersea United Charities

Annual Report and Accounts of the Trustees

for the year ended 31st March 2022

Battersea United Charities, Battersea Library, 265 Lavender Hill, London SW11 1JB

Contact: Clerk to the Trustees – Stephen Willmetts, Tel: 07960 482 842, Email: batterseacharities@gmail.com

Trustees: Philip Beddows (Chairman), Caroline Usher (Vice Chairman), Tim Woods (Treasurer), Tony Belton, Louise Calland, Pete Griffiths, Pamela O'Reilly, Tessa Strickland, Kate Sutcliffe, Marie Hanson MBE, Stephen Willmetts, The Reverend Canon Simon Butler (ex-officio, as Vicar of St Mary's Battersea).

Honorary President: Sven Tester

www.batterseaunitedcharities.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 247377

Trustees' Report

Year to 31st March 2022

Legal and administrative details

Battersea United Charities ('BUC') – Registered Charity No. 247377 – incorporates almost all of the small historic Parish trusts, created through the generous philanthropy of local women and men from, or closely connected to the historic parish of St Mary's Battersea, and later the Metropolitan Borough of Battersea. The original boundaries of both these are almost entirely contiguous with each other and continue to be the defined geographic area of focus for the charity's activities.

Trustees

Philip Beddows, *Chair*
Stephen Willmet, *Clerk*
Marie Hanson MBE
Louise Calland
Pamela O'Reilly
Kate Sutcliffe

Caroline Usher, *Vice Chair*
Timothy Woods, *Treasurer*
Tony Belton
Pete Griffiths
Tessa Strickland
Rev Canon Simon Butler, *Ex-officio Trustee*¹
¹ as Vicar of St. Mary's Battersea

Honorary President Sven Tester

Changes in Trustees Marie Hanson MBE appointed 20th March 2022.

Bankers National Westminster Bank plc, Clapham Junction Branch.
66-68 St. John's Road, Battersea, London SW11 1PB

Investment Managers Brewin Dolphin Limited
12 Smithfield Street, London EC1A 9BD

External Examiner Michael Bailey Esq., Chartered Accountant
14 Ellerby Street, Fulham, London SW6 6EY

Our Mission & charitable focus

Battersea United Charities is a grant-making charity in Battersea, London, whose charitable objects are:

- The advancement of education for the benefit of persons in need of financial assistance who reside in, or attend an educational establishment in, the former Metropolitan Borough of Battersea; or
- The relief of poverty of persons who are resident in the former Metropolitan Borough of Battersea, in particular but not exclusively by the payment of pensions or the provision of other financial support.

BUC achieves this by giving grants to organisations and individuals, funded from BUC's investment income and by generous support via donations from organisations and individuals.

Chair's Review of the year

The past financial year continued in a Covid era and this again had an impact on the way in which the Charity operated and the needs that arose in the year. Trustees continued to meet virtually via the use of video conferencing and this proved to be a solution that allowed Trustees to be effective in maintaining the work of Battersea United Charities ('BUC').

Our support for the Battersea Coronavirus Angels initiative continued and our involvement in partnering with other local community groups and charities in this way was extended, and the value of such collaborative work was evident.

Our support for the arts project for children, organised by the Nine Elms Arts Ministry and Battersea Arts Centre was continued after the success of us doing this last year.

The contributions of all of BUC's Trustees have been much appreciated and heartfelt thanks are offered to them all by the Chair.

Long-standing Trustee Tony Belton marked his 50 years of service on Wandsworth Council during the year, an achievement that made him the longest serving Councillor on Wandsworth Borough Council since the Council's creation on 1st April 1965; and probably of its predecessor Councils – the London Metropolitan Councils of Battersea and Wandsworth. His local knowledge and community connections have proved to be invaluable during the years of his service as one of our Trustees.

We were pleased to welcome Marie Hanson MBE as a new Trustee. Marie is founder and head of the well known STORM charity, set up in Battersea and her experience and insights will be invaluable.

The continuing impact of Covid regulations reduced applications for help with school trips, but we were able to support a trip to Cornwall organised by Women of Wandsworth ('WOW'). WOW organises trips to Cornwall offering exposure to fresh country and sea air for families who suffer from Asthma, Eczema and other disabilities and allergies due to high pollution in London.

Financial hardship in this Covid era was a feature of a number of grant applications. BUC was able to support families in multiple ways – from helping to buy a cooker for a family who couldn't otherwise eat cooked food at home, and beds for children who would otherwise have nothing but a floor to sleep on, to school uniforms, and other educational support.

The Battersea Summer Scheme was not able to run its usual events for local youth in Battersea Park, which BUC have sponsored for many years. An alternative set of events was organised including an innovative 'Come Dine with Me' project which pitted all the local youth clubs against each other in a cooking competition with a prize to the winners. This was a great success and engaged young people from across Battersea, all conducted with due regard to Covid regulations.

BUC supported Waste Not Want Not Battersea, by contributing a grant towards a new refrigerated van to allow them to deliver food. This innovative initiative was begun by someone BUC had supported with an educational grant years before, and is a greatly valued service providing meals for many people in Battersea, using food from New Covent Garden Market and restaurants that would otherwise have been wasted, and helping teach families how to better utilise food to avoid waste. In current times, this has become an even more important mission.

Our support for music as a part of our work in the educational realm involved BUC in making a grant to a very talented local musician to help them to complete a postgraduate Masters course at the Royal Academy of Music.

Appreciating the greater need for help across the community we used additional reserves to boost our giving in this financial year, not least at Christmas time of year when we made grants that provided meals for a large number of people, especially the elderly, across Battersea.

Battersea's local MP Marsha de Cordova kindly joined one of our meetings to learn more about our work and how she could help support us.

With the Queen's Platinum Jubilee beginning in this year, BUC pulled together a group of local charities and community leaders, and convened a meeting of over 30 local organisations to explore ways to mark the Jubilee through support for community initiatives to strengthen community cohesion and resilience. The Battersea Jubilee Festival projects was launched as a result and by the time of our year end 31st March 2022 various groups had been formed to focus on particular aspects – for example, the Battersea Power Station Community Choir is involved in creating a song for Battersea and a music video; a BAC-Arts group was creating a Battersea Jubilee Mural; a gathering of all faith communities for a shared moment of prayer, perhaps at the Peace Pagoda in Battersea Park, was being planned; and much more besides.

Linked to this, some initial thoughts were developed for the raising of a Jubilee Fund by BUC to be a legacy to support the local Battersea community long into the future, and be the start of an initiative to raise generous benefactions to boost the charity and extend the valuable work that we support across Battersea.

Despite the darkening economic clouds on the horizon and the outbreak of war on the European continent, BUC remains resilient, our income unaffected and our grant-making has increased.

We are particularly grateful for the wise and able service of our Treasurer, who has done a fine job of coordinating the management of our finances and coordinating effectively with our investment managers.

Treasurer's Report

The attached report and accounts cover the period from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. The accounts have been prepared on a cash basis and represent all income, payments and assets held by the underlying Charities and Funds under Battersea United Charities. Following the merger of the underlying Charities and Funds in June 2018 only one consolidated set of accounts is produced. There are currently no landed properties owned, and the Charity is not involved in any long-term projects.

The assets of the Charity are held within a single investment portfolio and deposit accounts. For the period under review the income of the Charity is at a level whereby an audit is not required by legislation but a review of the accounts has been undertaken by an External Examiner and his report is attached as required by the trust deeds and the Charity Commission.

The merger of the underlying Charities, with one set of charitable objectives and pooled resources, has enabled Battersea United Charities to increase the flexibility and size of its grant making. As a result, where commitments are not delayed or deferred due to situations outside their control, it is the Trustees' intention and expectation that an increasing proportion of the income received will be able to be given away in grants.

A monthly financial summary is circulated to all Trustees highlighting the cash level, the value of the investment portfolio, as well as showing a running total of income and expenditure. In addition, funds due to be received are shown, as well as future commitments and/or payments due to be made or not yet cleared through the bank account.

In the period the Charity made no grants to individuals (£1,460 in the previous year), and nineteen grants to non-individuals totalling £32,319 (£23,054), including Christmas donations. In total the Charity spent £947 (£430) on administration and other miscellaneous matters, including Trustee Indemnity Cover, a new logo and the payment of annual pensions.

Donations amounting to £279 (£183) were received from individuals in the period, on which gift aid of £69 (£44) was reclaimed, while £7,701 (£6,550) was received from institutions, including funds (£300) to cover our committed pension contributions. In the future it is the Trustees' intention to concentrate on increasing the levels of donations, from all sources, given the increasing number of calls on our limited resources.

The investment portfolio appreciated in value by 4.4% in 2021-22, after taking into account the management fees and charges paid to our advisers (£4,994 excluding VAT), and the income withdrawn (£3,500 per quarter). In addition, the Trustees agreed to withdraw the sum of £10,000 from accumulated income which had not previously been withdrawn and is treated as reserves, a policy document for which having been adopted by the Trustees in June 2021. The portfolio itself generated £14,540 (£15,412) in income during the period under review and the balance not withdrawn was re-invested within the portfolio but is available for future spending as and when required. Trustees continue to keep the performance of its investment manager under close review, receiving quarterly valuations, holding annual meetings, and having regular discussions over market movements.

Brewin Dolphin were appointed as Investment Managers in 2014 when the sum of £410,000 was transferred to them, with an additional £9,252 being transferred in 2016. They were re-appointed in 2019 after a series of interviews with fund managers.

The Trustees confirm that when reviewing the Charity's activities and planning future programmes, they have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and complied with their duties under the Charities Act 2011. In particular, the Trustees have taken into consideration how planned activities and spending programmes will help meet the strategic and specific aims of the Charity.

Risk report

The Trustees consider the risk profile of the Charity on an ongoing basis through a sub-committee of the Chairman and the Treasurer who meet at least twice a year. Amongst other matters, the Finance and Investment sub-Committee regularly reviews the risks posed by the involvement of third parties - in particular Brewin Dolphin (investment managers) and NatWest (bankers) - as well as regularly reviewing our internal processes of cheque signing where two signatures are always required.

A Risk Assessment, based on the Health and Safety Executive's website, has been adopted, and our internal Grant Policy Guidelines are strictly adhered to. Our Investment Policy is reviewed annually in conjunction with our Investment Managers, and last year a Reserves Policy was introduced in order that we can continue to build up reserves over the long term, while at the same time maximising our charitable donations. All other policy statements are reviewed annually.

Grant payments are rarely made to an individual and substantial social and financial investigations are entered into prior to the release of any funds, with full documentation available on each case reviewed. The Charity has also commenced a process of reviewing the benefit of each grant made by investigating the assistance given to the individual or organisation.

In addition, the sub-committee continuously reviews the possibility of potential cyber attacks and has in place a process to mitigate this risk. Other possible risks including fraud, changes to Charity Law, a scandal undermining our reputation, the loss by Trustees of potentially sensitive information, and legal action against the Charity, are kept under regular review. The Charity has also addressed the issues raised by the Data Protection Regulations in order to comply with this new legislation post Brexit. Our processes have also been updated to cover such issues as Safeguarding where a designated person and deputy have been appointed, and a written policy for handling complaints has been drawn up, with no complaints or serious incidents to report during the period under review.

The Charity has a strong Conflict of Interest Policy, and has in place Declarations for Fit and Proper Persons and Related Party Disclosures which are closely adhered to at all times and reviewed annually. Battersea United Charities now has in place policy statements to ensure that all current legislation is complied with and such matters are reviewed on a regular basis by all Trustees. The Charity also supports and endorses the Charity Governance Code which has been circulated to all Trustees to ensure that a good standard of governance is maintained. Safeguarding and Data Protection are also areas that are frequently monitored by the Trustees.

Summary

The Trustees continue to act in the Charity's best interest, manage its resources responsibly, and act with reasonable care and skill. In addition, the Trustees ensure that the Charity is accountable, acts for the public benefit, and complies at all times with our governing document and the Law.

In so far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's independent External Examiner is unaware, and the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the independent External Examiner is aware of that information.

The Trustees have reviewed the financial position of the Charity as at 31st March 2022 and consider that the charity has sufficient reserves and cash resources in order to continue as a going concern.

By order of the Trustees:



Philip Beddows

Chair



TBCH Woods

Treasurer

Date 9th December 2022

External Examiner's Report
to the Trustees of Battersea United Charities
Year to 31st March 2022

I have examined the income and expenditure accounts and statements of assets for the Battersea United Charities for the year ended 31st March 2022.

I confirm that the underlying books and records are in accordance with the income and expenditure accounts and the statements of assets prepared for the above period, and therefore I am of the opinion that the income and expenditure accounts and the statements of assets present fairly the financial condition of the Battersea United Charities for the year ended 31st March 2022.



Michael Bailey Esq., Chartered Accountant
14 Ellerby Street
Fulham
London SW6 6EY

Date: 8 December 2022

BATTERSEA UNITED CHARITIES
CONSOLIDATED RESULTS FOR YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Total 2021-22 £	Total 2020-21 £
Receipts & payments for year			
Receipts			
Investment income and reserves	1	24,540	25,412
Interest		0	0
Funds received from individuals	2	280	183
Funds received from non-individuals	3	7,701	6550
Other receipts	4	70	46
Total Receipts £		32,591	32,191
Payments			
Grants paid to individuals	5	0	1,460
Grants paid to non-individuals	6	16,619	15,554
Pensions	7	1,050	300
Christmas donations	8	15,700	7,500
Expenses	9	947	430
Total Payments £		34,316	25,244
Excess of Payments over Receipts £		1,725	-6,947

Closing balances as at

31/3/21	Notes	
Brewin Dolphin investment	10	553,758
NatWest balance	11	7,082
Totals		560,840

Closing balances as at

31/3/22		
Brewin Dolphin investment	10	554,985
NatWest balance	11	4,793
Totals		559,778

Movement of Funds 2021/22

Brewin Dolphin investment	10	1,227
NatWest balance	11	-2289
Totals		-1,062

Notes to the accounts:

1. Investment income comes from the Brewin Dolphin portfolio. During the period the sum of £3,500 was withdrawn on a quarterly basis (total £14,000). In addition Reserves of £10,000 were withdrawn in November 2021 to cover additional pandemic-related calls for donations.
2. Funds received from 5 (3 in 2020-21) individuals on which Gift Aid has been reclaimed (see note 4).
3. Funds received from 4 institutions (4 in 2019-20), including the Henry Smith Charity, the Worshipful Company of Coopers, the TK Maxx & Homesense Foundation and the PayPal Charitable Fund.
4. Funds received via a reclaim of Gift Aid for the previous tax year.
5. Grants made to individual Battersea residents, rather than to retail outlets and academic institutions.
6. Grants made to Battersea-based institutions towards such events as summer trips, arts and crafts packs, food distribution outlets, Christmas meals, learning materials, a new computer, and sports equipment amongst others.
7. The Charity administers the John Banks Pensions and the Non-Apprenticing Pensions annually.
8. This year the Charity made grants towards twelve different local causes, including Battersea Arts Centre, Women of Wandsworth, St John Bosco College, Providence House Trust, Waste Not Want Not Battersea, Kambala Estate Residents, Regenerate RISE, the Ascension Church PCC, Battersea Summer Scheme, St. Mary's Parish Church, and Falconbrook Primary School.
9. This expenditure covered the annual upkeep of the website and the cost of Trustee Indemnity Cover.
10. The Brewin Dolphin investment portfolio is shown at market value at 31/03/2022 at £554,985, against a figure of £553,758 as at 01/04/2021. During the period the capital appreciated by £16,680 (taking into account management fees and income and reserves withdrawn) while the portfolio generated total income of £14,540 of which £14,000 was paid into the Charity's bank account at NatWest Bank on a quarterly basis. All investments are held in the Brewin Dolphin nominee account to our order.
11. The Charity's bank account is held in a current account at the Clapham Junction branch of NatWest Bank.