Bridge Centre Trust (A company limited by guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended

31 March 2023

Charity Number: 1111256

Company Number: 5337394

Bridge Centre Trust

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Bridge Centre Trust

Legal and Administrative Information

Status

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 19 January 2005 and registered as a charity on 12 September 2005.

The company is established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by its Articles of Association. The articles were amended by special resolution dated 23 September 2005. The members of the company agree to a maximum liability of £1 each in the event of the company being wound up with insufficient funds. Should there be any surplus funds on the winding up of the company then this shall not be distributed to the members but to another charity with similar objectives. Under those Articles, the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years, one third retiring each year but eligible for re-election.

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are it's trustees for the purpose of charity law and through out this report are collectively referred to as the trustees.

The trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Mr A R Leake - Chairman Mr J Machin Mr R Phillips Mrs E Owen Mr D Phillips

Registered office

The Bridge Centre Birches Head Road Birches Head Stoke on Trent ST2 8DD

Independent Examiners

BK Plus Limited Adventure Place, Hanley Stoke on Trent ST1 3AF

Bankers

The Royal Bank of Scotland Trinity Parade Trinity Street Hanley Stoke on Trent ST1 5SL

Solicitors

Arthur Boulton & Son 24 Market Place Burslem Stoke on Trent ST6 4AX

The trustees present their report along with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

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's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and the 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 published on 16 July 2014.

Management and governance arrangements

The Bridge Centre Trust is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. It is registered as a charity with the charity commission.

The Trust has a board which comprises currently of 5 Directors. The board is free to invite other directors to join if it so desires. It also has the ability to co-opt any other members with special skills. The board is responsible for overseeing the financial situation, propriety, and direction and policy of the Trust. The board meets at least 6 times per year.

Organisation

The board was involved in all day to day operations during the year. The Trust employs a Centre Manager to manage the day to day operations. The Centre Manager is responsible to the board. The Centre manager has certain delegated powers and authority which are regularly reviewed. The Trust board has given delegated authority to the chairman to incur costs up to a specified level under certain situations. All other expenditure decisions are referred to the board.

Risk management

The committee actively review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis and believe that maintaining reserves at the current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources in the event of adverse conditions. The committee have also examined other operational and business risks faced by the charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks.

Objectives

The objectives are as follows:

- a) to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the area by associating together the local inhabitants and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants.
- b) to relieve persons who are in condition of need or hardship or who are aged or sick and to relieve the distress caused thereby within the area of benefit.
- c) to promote the physical, intellectual and social development of children and young people, particularly those who are disadvantaged.
- d) to establish or secure the establishment of a community centre and to manage and maintain the same and to do all such things as are usually carried out in such a centre in furtherance of these aims.

These are fulfilled by the following broad strategies.

- a) The creation and management of a community resource enabling a wide range of groups to have access to sporting, social, and cultural facilities
- b) The encouragement of enterprise through the creation of 8,500 sq ft of office and work space, and the linking of such enterprises with other support service providers.
- c) By making a range of facilities especially available to young people and the elderly.

Public benefit

In shaping our objectives and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements

We have found over the last 12 months that the need for various community groups has grown considerably. Covid and the cost-of-living crisis has had a major impact on people's day to day lives.

We have continued to support various existing groups who offer support to mums, babies, children, families, the elderly, and those with disabilities and learning difficulties. Just Family, Mothers Mind, Rogers Art, Family Focus/Hubb Foundation, Pink Sisters, Tesco Retirement Group to name but a few.

We have become the venue for the annual SOT Lions charity Brass Band concert, this year all proceeds were going to a local charity North Staffs Carers, the Bridge Centre helped by donating the cost of the room to their chosen charity.

To grow our community work further we hosted a show case event in the summer of 2022 where various groups, charities, and organisations from across the city came to share information on what was available to people in the local area, this event was so well attended that another event was planned for the following spring.

Birches Head Get Growing a volunteer group approached the Bridge Centre last year with a whole host of ideas they wanted to undertake to assist us providing further support to the local community. They started off with a weekly group at the Bridge Centre for people mainly to take part in gardening activities however this group has grown into so much more, they offer support through various speakers, they can take part in craft activities, gentle Yoga & movement, gardening or come just to socialise. One of the aims of the group was to show and teach people how to grow their own food. They secured additional funding to further this project and an area of land at the Bridge Centre was set aside for them. A few temporary beds were set up whilst waiting for work to commence on the main area, these have been tended to over the year producing crops which have been distributed to people in the local area. It soon became apparent that there was genuine need in the community and funding was secured which enabled them to provide an event once a month at the Bridge Centre where people can take food, clothing, toys, and household items in exchange for them giving their time to volunteer for the group. As the need for free food increased, they secured a delivery of food that is nearing the end of its shelf life from two supermarkets on a weekly basis this enables them to provide a free breakfast and free food on site twice a week. As well as this group running community work on our premises, they have also been valuable in partnering the Bridge Centre in the local community and assisting us in providing business opportunities through networking.

Over the year we have been able to offer our facilities to some new groups. The MS Society, Foster Carers Association, a book club, and Tai Chi are some examples of the diversity. We found a lot of these groups were attended by more women than men and looked at ways in which we could reach out to more men in the community. Sport Seniors was formed at the beginning of this year. The group is intended for men however women are welcome. The group runs weekly and provides equipment to take part in various sports, bowling, pool, table tennis etc as well as offering the chance to socialise. Numbers have increased considerably over time with a regular attendance of at least 20 people, the majority being men.

Achievements - continued

At the start of August Deaflinks Staffordshire moved into one of our business units. Deaflinks provide support and activity groups for the deaf and hard of hearing. We have been able to assist them with this during their time here by providing rooms for them to run the various groups. We have also been able to provide low-cost rooms for them to run sign language courses.

Financial review.

Management figures are provided on a regular basis this enables the trust to operate strict and rigorous controls on the financial elements of the charity operations. Although we have been able to continue with improvements within the centre, the trust operates a prudent policy regarding expenditure at all times.

At the year end the charity had reserves of £866,877 (2022 £867,388) the amount relating to the restricted funds being £214,605 (2022 £221,108). The amount of the reserves is effectively represented in the value of the centre without which the charity would be unable to meet its objectives.

At the current time our business units are fully occupied. Our conferencing business has recovered and is now running at a similar level to early 2020 before covid restrictions. Owing to an increase in Community use, we currently have little availability for community space during working hours and are concentrating on off peak times however this is something we are looking to increase in the next financial year.

Reserves Policy

Reserve policy is to hold enough reserves to meet the current budget in order to ensure the ongoing operation of the charities activities. This is reviewed regularly at the committee meetings.

Acknowledgements

These financial statements set out the results of the year but do not reflect the considerable and vital support given to the Trust by all connected with the charity, such support is vital for the charity to function successfully.

Investment Policy

The Trust invests any surplus funds in interest bearing deposit accounts.

Future Plans

The promising recovery in bookings and operations of the 12 months reflected in these figures has continued since the year end, which is further releasing funding to expand the work of the Trust. This has enabled the Trust to complete the plans suspended since 2019 to complete the creation of the patio area serving The Link, and to work to create new accessible areas. Following on from our previous years' plans to assist new community support groups, the Trust will be bringing more of our external unused areas into use to support self-help groups and encourage education. We are also re-commencing plans to bring additional internal areas into full use.

The Trust is continuing the plans to increase the sustainability of the Centre by upgrading lighting systems and investigating further initiatives to reduce the environmental footprint of our operations. Some areas have been upgraded to LED lighting, and plans are in place to continue this move.

Statement of trustees responsibilities

Company law requires that the directors prepare financial statements for each financial year to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date, of its incoming resources and application of those resources, including income and expenditure, for the year. In preparing those statements, the board has selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently, made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis, reflecting the charitable company's increasing success.

The trustees acknowledge responsibility for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They have also safeguarded the assets of the charitable company and taken reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud or other irregularities.

Members of the board

Members of the board, directors for the purpose of company law and trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year are set out on page 1,

Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company in the event of winding up. The number of such guarantees at 31 March 2023 was 5.

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This report was approved by the management committee and signed on its behalf by:

Mr A R Leake

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Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Bridge Centre Trust

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 7 to 14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- 1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- 4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

Signed:

Mr K Salt FCCA BK Plus Limited

Chartered Certified Accountants

Adventure Place

Hanley

ST1 3AF

Bridge Centre Trust Statement of Financial Activities (including Income & Expenditure Account) for the year ended 31 March 2023

To the year office of material				2023	2022
	Un Notes	restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Income					
Donations	2	29,503	-	29,503	25,923
Grants receivable	3	_	-	-	16,574
Income from charitable activities: Rental income and recharges Cafe and catering income		240,688 47,707	- -	240,688 47,707	149,227 13,736
Investment income Other incoming resources	4	598 -	- -	598 -	16 -
Total income	-	318,496		318,496	205,476
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities: Premises running costs Cafe and catering costs Donations made	7 8 9	279,302 33,202 -	6,503 - -	285,805 33,202	244,220 10,570 -
Total expenditure	-	312,504	6,503	319,007	254,790
Net income		5,992	(6,503)	(511)	(49,314)
Gross transfers between funds	17	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	-	5,992	(6,503)	(511)	(49,314)
Reconciliation of funds Total funds at 1 April 2022 Total funds at 31 March 2023	-	646,280 652,272	221,108 214,605	867,388 866,877	916,702 867,388

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing operations. None of the charitable company's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial years.

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these accounts.

Bridge Centre Trust Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

do at or maren 2020		20	23 20)22	
N	lotes	£	£	£	£	
Fixed assets for use by the charity						
Tangible assets	11		566,423		602,392	
Current assets		50		50		
Stock	13	23,781		14,416		
Debtors Cash at bank and in hand	13	317,385		273,452		
Cash at bank and in hand		341,216		287,918		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	40,762		22,922		
Net current (liabilities) / assets			300,454		264,996	
Total assets less current liabilities			866,877		867,388	
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			-		-	
Net assets	16		866,877		867,388	
The funds of the charity : Restricted funds			214,605		221,108	
Unrestricted funds			652,272	-	646,280	
Total charity funds	17		866,877		867,388	

For the year ended 31 March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibility for:

(i) ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386; and

(ii) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year, and of its profit or loss for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS 102 Section 1A - small entities.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the directors and signed on their behalf by:

Mr A R Leake

Company Number: 5337394

Date

7x december 2023

1 Accounting policies

Accounting convention

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by 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 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

Incoming resources

Voluntary income is received by way of donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable.

Incoming resources from investments are included when receivable.

Resources expended and basis of allocation of costs

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs that relate to the category.

Allocation of overhead and support costs.

Allocation and support costs have been allocated on an allocation basis which is considered appropriate to the nature of the cost as shown in note 6.

Cost of generating funds

Fundraising expenditure comprises costs incurred in inducing people and organisations to contribute

Fixed assets and depreciation

All purchases of a capital nature are capitalised at cost.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each tangible fixed asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Land and buildings Property fixtures and fittings Furniture Equipment straight line over 50 years straight line over 50 years 25% reducing balance 25% reducing balance and 25% straight line

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the management committee for particular purposes.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

2	Donations	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
	Sundry Donations	29,503	-	29,503	25,923
		29,503		29,503	25,923
3	Grants receivable	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
	Government COVID support grants Government COVID Job Support Scheme	-	-	- -	2,838 13,736
			_	-	16,574
4	Investment income	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
	UK interest received	598	-	598	16
		598		598	16

5 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

6 Allocation of support costs and overheads

All costs during the year are directly attributable to activities and therefore no allocation has been required.

7 Analysis of charitable expenditure

The charity has only one charitable activity being the provision of on site facilities for the local community. The expense analysis is shown below :

		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
	Wages and Salaries	93,055	-	93,055	88,265
	Staff training	190	-	190	295
	Rates	19,477	_	19,477	17,403
	Insurance	12,995	_	12,995	11,646
	Repairs and maintenance	56,189		56,189	43,816
	Heat and light	49,131	-	49,131	26,525
	Cleaning and waste disposal	4,033	-	4,033	3,303
	Stationery and postage	2,193	_	2,193	1,525
	Computer running expenses	869	_	869	574
	Telephone	4,037	_	4,037	3,737
	Legal and professional fees	924	-	924	924
	Bank charges	921	-	921	682
	Sundries	758	-	758	484
	Accountancy fees	2,000	-	2,000	2,050
	Depreciation	32,238	6,503	38,741	42,991
	Bad debt	292	-	292	-
		279,302	6,503	285,805	244,220
8	Cafe and catering costs	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
	Catering and café supplies	33,202		33,202	10,570
	Wages and salaries	-	-	-	-
	·	33,202	-	33,202	10,570
9	Donations made	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
	None paid this year	-	-	•	-
					-

10	Staff costs	2023 £	2022 £
	Gross wages and salaries Employers national insurance Pension costs - defined contribution scheme	88,567 2,580 1,908	83,775 2,707 1,783
		93,055	88,265
	Average number of employees	4	4

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture	Property fixtures and fittings	Equipment £	Land and buildings £	Total £
Cost At 1 April 2022 Additions Disposals	112,264 - -	260,209 - -	120,090 2,772 -	776,189 - -	1,268,752 2,772 -
At 31 March 2023	112,264	260,209	122,862	776,189	1,271,524
Depreciation At 1 April 2022 Charge for the Year Disposals	97,437 4,895 -	214,010 15,866	112,348 2,456 -	242,565 15,524	666,360 38,741
At 31 March 2023	102,332	229,876	114,804	258,089	705,101
Net book value At 31 March 2023	9,932	30,333	8,058	518,100	566,423
At 1 April 2022	14,827_	46,199	7,742	533,624	602,392

The charity's property was purchased from Stoke on Trent City Council. The property was sold for the purposes which were covered in the planning permission, that of being used for recreational facilities, a worship centre, community facilities, enterprise units and offices. Within the purchase document were conditions relating to buyback clauses if the Trust failed to achieve certain goals related to these planning conditions.

The Trust has agreed to a number of covenants which last for 21 years from the completion of the development. The main covenants granted are as follows:

- the property must only be used to provide a worship centre, community facilities, an enterprise centre or offices.
- that the sports courts are to be used for recreational facilities.

Should the sports court covenant be breached then the council have the right to repurchase them for £1.

12 Capital commitments

At the year end the charity had no capital commitments.

13	Debtors	2023 £	2022 £
	Trade debtors Prepayments Gift aid monies due Other debtors	14,749 8,040 630 362 23,781	5,238 7,901 630 647 14,416
14	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023 £	2022 £
	Trade creditors Rental deposit bonds Taxation and social security Other creditors and accruals	10,784 8,162 12,452 9,364 40,762	8,101 6,179 2,257 6,385

15 Contingent liabilities

The charity received a grant of £245,000 from the North Staffs Regeneration Zone. This grant is subject to certain conditions relating to the ongoing provision of enterprise and office space. Should the Trust breach these conditions in the future the North Staffs Regeneration Zone or its successors may request the repayment of all or part of this grant. The charge expires on the 30 January 2031.

The Trustees regularly review the current status of the charity to ensure that grant conditions are complied with.

16	Analysis of net assets between funds Fund balances as at 31 March 2023 are represented by:	General funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
	Tangible fixed assets Current assets Current liabilities Long term liabilities	351,818 336,216 (40,762)	214,605 5,000 - -	566,423 341,216 (40,762)
	Total net assets	647,272	219,605	866,877

17	Movements in funds	As at 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	As at 31 March 2023
	Unrestricted funds: General fund	646,280	318,496	312,504	-	652,272
	Total Unrestricted funds	646,280	318,496	312,504	-	652,272
	Restricted funds: Premises facility improvement fund Premises purchase and refurbishmer	- nt	-	-	-	-
	- Birches Head site	221,108	-	6,503	-	214,605
	Total restricted funds	221,108		6,503		214,605
	Total funds	867,388	318,496	319,007		866,877

Fund details

Birches Head Site.

The fund represents gifts which were received specifically to be used to purchase the property and to fund the refurbishment of its community centre. This is currently the only site owned and operated by the charity.

Premises Facility Improvement Fund

The fund represents gifts which were received specifically to be used for facility improvement as specified by the particular donor.

Fund transfers

No transfers were made between funds in the year.