REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1196640



Report of the Trustees and

Unaudited Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

for

Bury St Edmunds Society CIO

Knights Lowe Chartered Accountants
Eldo House
Kempson Way
Suffolk Business Park
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP32 7AR



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Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

The Trustees of the Bury St Edmunds Society CIO (the Bury Society) present their report together with the financial statements of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 1 January 2019).

On 18 November 2021, the Charity Commission authorised the formation of The Bury St Edmunds Society CIO (registered charity 1196640) to receive the assets of the 'old' Bury St Edmunds Society (registered charity 263230). Following confirmatory resolutions passed by the members of the Society, all assets, liabilities and undertakings of the 'old' Society were transferred to The Bury St Edmunds Society CIO on 31 March 2022. The Bury St Edmunds Society CIO commenced operations on 1 April 2022 and this report deals with the period from then to 31 March 2023. Relevant information regarding the period from 18 November 2021 to 31 March 2022 is in the Trustees' Report for the year to 31 March 2022.

The Bury Society was originally established in 1971 as a Civic Society dedicated to caring about Bury St Edmunds, its past, present and future. It aims to improve the enjoyment and appreciation of Bury St Edmunds for all those who use the town through fostering its heritage and character, encouraging a balance of the new with the old and engaging communities on issues that impact on our local environment.

Bury in Bloom is that part of the Bury Society whose primary aim is to maintain its relationship with Anglia in Bloom and to co-ordinate its presentation for the annual Anglia in Bloom awards. Over the years, it has also assisted in the organisation of the hanging basket displays and many other schemes designed to maintain and improve the environment of the town.

2.0 OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES OF THE BURY ST EDMUNDS SOCIETY CIO

2.1 Objects of the Society

These are set out in the Society's governing document as follows:

The CIO is established for the public benefit for the following purposes in the area of Bury St Edmunds which shall hereinafter be referred to as 'the Area of Benefit':

- 1 To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit
- 2 To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history, culture and architecture of the area of benefit
- 3 To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features or areas of historic or public interest in the area of benefit, including through grant making
- 4 To promote horticulture and floriculture for the benefit of the public generally and in particular those who live in or visit the area of benefit, by the provision of floral displays in places visible to the public and other activities which directly promote horticulture and floriculture for the public benefit
- 2.2 General Policies of the Society
- 2.2.1 Risk Management

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

In compliance with the principles of CC 26 - Charities and Risk Management - the Society has a policy of regularly assessing the risks that might affect its future operation. The trustees have determined that in addition to the lingering risk of Covid disruption, the principal risks at present are the potential loss of membership and sponsorship income through the challenging economic circumstances that affect not only the Society but UK in general.

The trustees also believe that they should, as far as is practicable, be able to manage these risks in an appropriate manner.

2.2.2 Reserves

The Society operates a reserve policy to enable it to:

- maintain its normal level of activities when its income has been reduced for whatever reason
- finance expenditure on specific projects within its area of benefit
- maintain, replant and improve the roundabouts from which it derives a substantial part of its income

In the Bury Society, funds have been earmarked for event failure and in Bury in Bloom, funds have been earmarked for the renovation of roundabouts, any potential 2023 hanging basket subsidy and additional installation costs etc. of the rainwater harvesting project and the Coronation Crown display. In addition, both the Bury Society and Bury in Bloom retain funds amounting to one year's estimated fixed costs. All the Society's reserves are immediately accessible.

2.2.3 Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's General Guidance on Public Benefit when setting objectives and designing future plans, events and activities.

3.0 ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

3.1 The Bury Society

The Society's risk assessment indicated that demographics and economic circumstance could have an effect on membership subscriptions in 2022-23 and particular effort has been made by the membership secretary to ensure that members renewed their subscriptions. Because of this, individual and corporate memberships have largely held up over the year:

Membership at 31 March 2022 611 Membership at 31 March 2023 586

The trustees would again like to thank Sue Savage - the Membership Secretary - for all her efforts to maintain the membership in difficult circumstances.

The Membership, Communications and Events (MCE) committee prepared a varied programme of events for the year to 31 March 2023 intended to enhance and maintain the interest of both members of the society and of the general public. Apart from community coffee mornings, these included coach visits to Diss and Earsham Hall and to Holt and Sheringham.

A number of events which had been postponed, some because of Covid restrictions, were now put into place. These included a series of free guided tours around historic sites in Bury St Edmunds for over 240 students at ten of the Town's schools and participation in the Picnic in the Park celebrations to mark the millennium of the foundation of the Abbey of St Edmund.

Public Lectures were given at the Guildhall by Richard Hawking on 'A Countryman's East Anglia: the writings of Adrian Bell' and in the Athenaeum, Robert Lloyd Parry recreated a 1932 talk given by the historian MR James on The Abbey of St Edmunds' design and history. In addition, a sponsorship contribution was given towards the Bury St Edmunds 2022 literary festival.

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Donations were made to support the Mini Monk display in the Abbey Gardens and to the St Edmund's wolf carving which will also be placed in the Abbey Gardens. The Society was also pleased to assist Crafty Foxes in their Family Fun Day and Christmas Tree Projects.

To round off the 2022-23 year, a very well attended winter's lunch was held in the Southgate Community Centre.

The committee would like to thank Terry O'Donoghue and the other members of the MCE committee for all the hard work that was carried out in the organisation of these events.

To ensure that communications were maintained with the Society members and the public, the normal three issues of the Society's Review were published in 2022-23. Copies were hand delivered or posted by mail. Copies of the Review have open public access on the Society's website - www.burysociety.com The committee would like to thank Russell Cook and Alan Baxter for their help in producing the Review and to Sue Savage for organising its distribution. Alan also continues his work to enhance the user experience of the Society's website and the committee would like to especially thank him for his efforts in this respect. Members of the Society regularly contribute articles to the Bury Free Press and other local and regional newspapers and have appeared on Radio Suffolk to discuss and comment on the heritage and economic development of the town.

To celebrate the Society's 50 year anniversary, a souvenir brochure has been distributed free of charge to members and interested members of the public. This has been very well received and the Committee would like to thank everyone concerned in its creation and publication.

In accordance with its objectives, the Society works to preserve and enhance the buildings and landscape in and surrounding the town. The Society monitors planning applications on a monthly basis and, if there is a consensus amongst committee members, submits reports to planning authorities. As a general rule, the Society's comments refer to the likely impact of any new development, paying particular attention to applications which are located in the conservation area. The Society has always made special efforts to bring together the community and local policy makers through participation in public meetings and presentations and it is hoped to continue this in the future.

Certificates of Merit are awarded by the Society in respect of outstanding developments in the town. Owing to the cumulative effects of lockdown on building projects, no awards were made in 2022-23.

The Society is a member of Civic Voice which allows it, and other similar organisations, to work together to influence key planning and conservation policies focusing on high quality building design, the restoration and repurposing of town centres and ensuring effective sustainability.

3.2 Bury in Bloom

This is led by its Chairman - Robin Burnett, and its co-ordinator - Chris Wiley. Whilst its primary focus is on preparing the town's entry in the Anglia in Bloom and (if possible) the Britain in Bloom annual campaigns, it also has a key role in stimulating and maintaining public interest in the town. As a result of recent changes in the Anglia in Bloom judging criteria, more emphasis is now placed on conservation and environmental sustainability and the Society's activities have been adapted to support these aims.

As with the Bury Society, the 2022-23 risk assessment indicated that the weak economic situation could result in a loss of sponsorship income and in response special efforts were made to encourage existing roundabout sponsors to continue their support. Some roundabouts, including those which had been unsponsored for some while, were refurbished to improve their marketability and as a result of this, further sponsors have been recruited in 2022-23. At the date of this report, all roundabouts have now been let.

A number of partly completed projects have been taken forward in 2022-23; these include the expansion of the rainwater harvesting initiative to provide water for irrigating hanging baskets, planters etc. A new design installation 'Bury in Plume' was constructed to support the 2022 Anglia in Bloom submission and some earlier projects, including the 'willow crown' and 'crowning glory' were refurbished. In early 2023 work was started on a project celebrating King Charles III's coronation.

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

The Green Fingers Scheme which encourages community participation in small horticultural projects was also continued during 2022. This is particularly aimed at younger and older members of the community and culminated with a well-attended presentation at the Athenaeum in Autumn 2022.

The Certificate of Merit Scheme in which volunteer judges review almost all of the front gardens in Bury and award certificates of commendation where appropriate, continued to be very popular with feedback showing continued support for this scheme and its place in 'nudging' an improvement in the urban landscape of the town. The project will be expanded in 2023 to include the Marham Park estate. Our thanks go to Fiona Till and Lynne Wright, the respective volunteer coordinators of these two schemes, together with their very many helpers.

The Society entered both Anglia in Bloom and Britain in Bloom competitions in 2022. In the Anglia in Bloom competition it won a gold award and was joint winner with Huntingdon in the Large Town category. In the Britain in Bloom competition it won a gold award in the Business Improvement District - Large Town and City Centre category. The Committee's congratulations go to everyone connected with those successes.

4.0 LINKS TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS

In compliance with its objectives, the Society maintains relationships with many other local charities, schools and community-based organisations. These include the Bury Water Meadows Group, the Suffolk Preservation Society, The Bury St Edmunds Town Guides, Moyse's Hall Museum, the Friends of the Abbey Gardens, the Bury Past and Present Society, the Churchgate Area Association and the Suffolk Heritage Forum. This may involve the making of small grants or providing speakers for events held by them if requested.

Along with West Suffolk Council, St Edmundsbury Cathedral and Bury St Edmunds Town Council, the Society is a member of the Abbey of St Edmunds Heritage Partnership which has been set up to care for, conserve and enhance the Abbey Precincts. Its aim is to help people to understand the international significance of St Edmund and of the historic Abbey founded in his name.

5.0 SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS

The Society would like to thank Greene King - its major sponsor - together with all other organisations and individuals sponsoring roundabouts or contributing towards individual projects. It would also like to thank Councillors and Officers from Suffolk County Council, West Suffolk Council and Bury St Edmunds Town Council for their guidance and financial support when needed.

The Society has one part-time employee so without the dedicated support of its volunteers, it would not be in existence. The Trustees would like to express their grateful thanks to everyone whose efforts, large and small, have enabled the Society to operate as effectively as possible.

6.0 TRUSTEES

Stephen Moody and Jessica Rose Hughes were elected trustees on 9 June and Samuel Saloway-Cooke was appointed a trustee on 13 June 2022.

The Secretary of the Bury Society - Tim Page and the Treasurer of the Society - Doug Beardon will be standing down at the Society's Annual Meeting on 8 June 2023. Both have been long serving officers of the Society and, in particular, have steered it through its reincarnation as a CIO. Once again, the committee would like to offer their thanks for the work carried on by them over the years.

Richard Summers, a past president of the Royal Town Planning Institute was appointed an adviser to the Society in 2022 on the resignation of Rod Rees its previous planning officer. He will be standing down at the 2023 annual meeting and the Committee would also like to thank him for his thoughtful advice during the year.

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Within Bury in Bloom, David Irvine has retired as coordinator after leading it to multiple successes in the Anglia and Britain in Bloom competitions. He has been replaced by Chris Wiley as our youngest ever coordinator. Again the committee would like to thank David for his efforts over the last few years.

7.0 FINANCIAL REVIEW

7.1 Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the Society. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and for taking the appropriate steps for the avoidance and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and accepted United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

7.2 Financial Position at 31 March 2023

The financial statements, including the Independent Examiner's Report for the year to 31 March 2023 are attached to this report. As already mentioned in note 2.2.1 above, the Trustees believe that any risks relating to the reliability of the income sources are under control and that combined with the reserves, provide a secure base for its future activities.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS Registered Charity number

1196640

Principal address

9 Poppy Close Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP32 7JT

Trustees

M Taylor

T Page

D Beardon

R Burnett

T O'Donoghue

P Chung

S Nunn

R Cook

Ms J Hughes (appointed 9.6.22)

S G Moody (appointed 9.6.22)

S A Saloway-Cooke (appointed 13.6.22)

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent Examiner

Knights Lowe Chartered Accountants Eldo House Kempson Way Suffolk Business Park Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP32 7AR

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. 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 Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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 proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. 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.

M Taylor - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Bury St Edmunds Society CIO

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bury St Edmunds Society CIO

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bury St Edmunds Society CIO (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
- 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable 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.

James Knights FCA

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Knights Lowe Chartered Accountants Eldo House Kempson Way Suffolk Business Park Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP32 7AR

Date: 7.6. 2023

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Memberships & donations		12,176	14,554	26,730
Charitable activities				
General activities		8,150	=	8,150
Bury in Bloom activities		-	54,655	54,655
Investment income	2	37	528	565
Other income		31,283	124,904	156,187
Total		51,646	194,641	246,287
EXPENDITURE ON Charitable activities				
General activities		32,028	×-	32,028
Bury in Bloom activities		-	82,628	82,628
Total		32,028	82,628	114,656
NET INCOME		19,618	112,013	131,631
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		19,618	112,013	131,631

Balance Sheet 31 March 2023

CURRENT ASSETS	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Debtors Cash at bank	5	990 19,078 ————————————————————————————————————	112,463	990 131,541 ————————————————————————————————————
CREDITORS Amounts falling due within one year	6	(450)	(450)	(900)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		19,618	112,013	131,631
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		19,618	112,013	131,631
NET ASSETS		19,618	112,013	131,631
FUNDS Unrestricted funds Restricted funds	7			19,618 112,013
TOTAL FUNDS				131,631

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on and were signed on its behalf by:

M Taylor - Trustee

D Beardon - Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries and taking into consideration future income streams, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they have adopted a going concern basic in preparing the financial statements.

Financial Instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value, with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

Bank interest £ 565

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023.

4. STAFF COSTS

Total staff costs incurred in the year of £17,893. Average number of employees during the year was 2.

5. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Gift Aid debtor	990
	550

6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Other creditors 900	
Other creditors 900	

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Net	
	movement	At
	in funds	31.3.23
	£	£
Unrestricted funds		
General fund	19,618	19,618
Restricted funds		
Dr Rae Bequest fund	58,103	58,103
Bury in Bloom fund	53,910	53,910
	112,013	112,013
TOTAL FUNDS	131,631	131,631

£

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	51,646	(32,028)	19,618
Restricted funds			
Dr Rae Bequest fund	58,103	_	58,103
Bury in Bloom fund	136,538	(82,628)	53,910
	194,641	(82,628)	112,013
TOTAL FUNDS	246,287	(114,656)	131,631

Description of Restricted Funds

The Dr Rae Bequest fund represents the bequest of the late Dr Alison Rae, to be used for local projects whether of creation or preservation in or near the town centre of Bury St Edmunds.

The Bury in Bloom fund represents sponsorship and other receipts for the Bury in Bloom campaign. These funds are used for the maintenance and improvement of roundabouts, flowerbeds and planters within the control of West Suffolk Council and Bury St Edmunds Town Council together with a range of community projects. They also provide working capital for activities such as the provision of hanging baskets where expenditure may need to be incurred prior to the receipt of matching income.

8. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023.

<u>Detailed Statement of Financial Activities</u> <u>for the Year Ended 31 March 2023</u>

£

2,683

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INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS	
Memberships & donations	
Membership subscriptions	8,525
Donations	18,205
	10,203
	26,730
Investment income	
Bank interest	565
Charles II. and delay	
Charitable activities	23.00
Events & projects income Roundabouts & flowerbeds	8,150
Baskets & planters	31,495
busices & planters	23,160
	62,805
Other income	
Transfer from previous entity	455 407
Transfer from previous energy	156,187
Total incoming resources	246,287
EXPENDITURE	
Charitable activities	
Advertising & communications	5,334
Planting & maintenance	32,867
Printing, postage & stationery	1,013
Co-ordinator Co-ordinator	21,290
Other costs	5,511
Newsletter & publications	1,680
Subscriptions Events costs	1,078
Community projects	6,500
Anglia in Bloom costs	34,304
	2,396
	111,973
Support costs	
Governance costs	
Independent examiner's fees	200
Insurance	900 629
Meeting expenses	654
Rent	500

<u>Detailed Statement of Financial Activities</u> for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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Total resources expended	114,656
Net income	131,631