# REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 FOR

#### THE NETHERLANDS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY



**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 213032** 

# CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	F	Page	Э
Report of the Trustees	1	to	7
Independent Examiner's Report		8	
Statement of Financial Activities		9	
Balance Sheet		10	
Notes to the Financial Statements	11	to	14
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	15	to	16

# REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of The Netherlands Benevolent Society, "Koning Willem Fonds", for the year ended 31 December 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).

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The objects of the Society are to render in its sole discretion assistance to Dutch nationals in need, living in the United Kingdom, irrespective of race or religion. Assistance may also be given to others in the United Kingdom if they are the surviving widows or widowers of Dutch nationals, or children with at least one parent of Dutch nationality.

#### When Assistance is granted

Circumstances such as illness, mental stress, an emergency, old age, general poverty, and generally where an acute need of any kind exists or an opportunity presents itself for improvement of conditions of life where these are considered to be below an acceptable level all qualify for possible assistance.

#### **Possible Forms of Assistance**

It can take one or more of the following forms:

- a. Advice and comfort to those eligible for assistance by means of counselling by the Social Worker;
- b. The granting of a periodic payment or a one-time cash payment;
- c. The granting of a loan.

# REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

Dear Supporter

This past year can best be described as 'challenging'. For those who read our Christmas message, you will remember we highlighted a substantial surge in demand for assistance as 2023 progressed. More people in living memory, with Dutch nationality, approached us last year; many of these are individuals living near or on the breadline in the United Kingdom.

You will know the mission of The Koning Willem Fonds is to help those from The Netherlands who have fallen on hard times in the United Kingdom. We attempt to visit every applicant as well as providing a listening ear and emotional support. This forms the basis for the monthly applicant discussions held by Trustees, where we hope to implement positive forward momentum for these individuals. For instance, we are often actively involved in the renegotiation of energy bills or provide financial aid to help with the purchase of white goods or indeed flooring, where an applicant's housing conditions are intolerable. Cutback in social services by the UK government over many years, explains this development. We pride ourselves on our responsiveness to in-coming requests, and the extent we go to, to fully understand an individual's personal circumstances.

Internet usage by applicants has facilitated the threefold increase in enquiries this past year, and the tenfold increase compared with some 10 years ago. In addition, we have witnessed an increasing number of individuals asking us to help them finance a return to The Netherlands; these being Dutch people who view their living conditions in the UK as too challenging. We are cautious of advocating such a step, as those who have followed this path are often disappointed with the outcome on arrival.

To help adequately process the rise in numbers of applications (and therefore recipients) we recently invested in additional administrative staff. Consequently, the Charity in late 2023, and moving into 2024, will experience a 'double-whammy' impact of higher operating costs, alongside higher grant provision. It also reflects the Trustees decision, end 2022, to increase the monthly value of supermarket vouchers gifted to recipients by 20%, (reflecting the pressure on household budgets because of cost-of-living increases) along with a similar increase in pension top-up payments. Direct Aid expenditure thereby rose by almost 40% last year and is likely to show a further sharp increase in 2024. We anticipate the draw-down of capital from our investment funds will accelerate over the next few years, and the Charity will need to increase its fundraising activities to sustain its current level of operating. It is difficult to predict if this new state of operating is here to stay. So far, in the early months of 2024, it would appear to be the 'new normal' for us.

In a few weeks' time we will be celebrating our 150th anniversary. We hope many of you will attend our event on June 12, 2024, at Trinity House, Trinity Square, London. The Trustees are fully aware of our debt to our 'friends' and their annual financial gifting. Whilst 2024 promises to be as challenging as 2023, the Trustees hope on this day to speak to you personally and to thank you for your continued interest in our work. I believe we are the only European charity in the United Kingdom, which provides this level of assistance to their fellow countryperson in need. Please visit our website to read more about our work. Thank you for your continued support and interest in these troubled times.

I look forward to welcoming you to our Jubilee event on the 12th of June, 2024.

With warm wishes from me and all the Trustees.

Loesje van Hellenberg Hubar

Chair

# REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE FACT SHEET

#### TO PROVIDE HELP TO DUTCH CITIZENS IN NEED, WHO ARE RESIDENT IN THE UK.

Our applicants have often tried and failed to access help elsewhere so that by the time they reach us their personal situation can be very urgent.

# A small handful of applicants receive a regular monthly pension from the Charity to help with living costs.

A significant proportion of our applicants are single mothers.

A significant proportion of our applicants have mental health issues.

Many people find the burden of modern bureaucracy onerous which impedes the provision of satisfactory financial and emotional support.

#### Our philosophy

- To actively listen to every applicant's life story
- To visit as many applicants as possible
- To provide a collective and considered strategy of help

#### Our finances & operations

- We have a small investment fund
- We receive no corporate sponsorship
- We rely on private donor generosity
- We employ one Social Work Coordinator
- The Board of 13 Trustees meet monthly, giving their time and input free of charge

#### This is how Donor gifts allow the KWF to support its applicants.

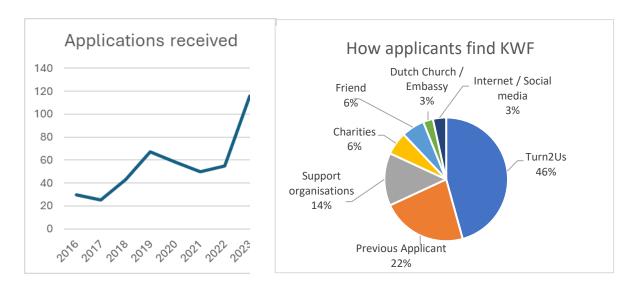
£20 - pays for passport photo costs. Some 5-10 people per annum cannot afford the cost of a new passport, or indeed the travel cost to London.

£60 - pays for one week's worth of food vouchers. In any given year supermarket vouchers accounts for half the monies spent by the Charity.

£120 - pays for a warm coat with waterproof shoes.

#### **SOCIAL WORK REPORT 2023**

Over the previous five years (2018 - 2022) there was a steady rise in the total number of requests for help. In 2023, however, numbers more than doubled. It has been the Charity's busiest year in recent memory with a record number of 300 enquiries received, resulting in 116 applications.

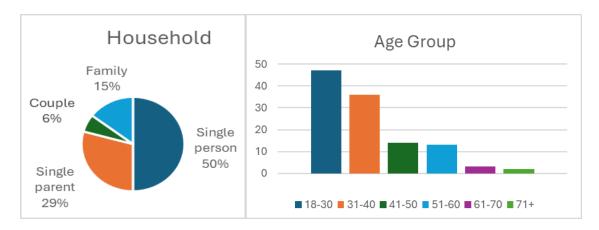


At times the number of enquiries flowing into our mailbox each week has been overwhelming and the Charity was grateful to have a volunteer for three months during the summer of 2023 to support the Social Work Coordinator.

The main reason for the exponential increase is the much-improved online search facilities now available to anyone looking for grants. It is a one-step search on the internet to reach the popular grant finder application from the charity Turn2Us (see chart above), which points people our way.

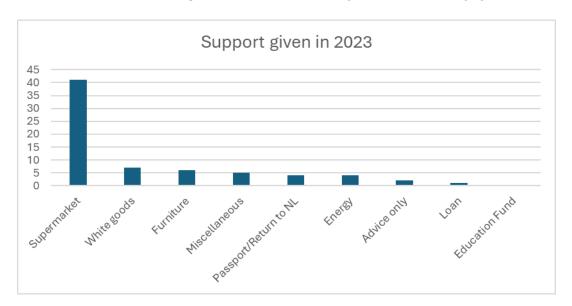
New applicants make up roughly three-quarters of all applications, but there also many people who apply for a second time because they are still struggling to make ends meet or have faced additional difficulties.

It is the single parent and single person households who we view as the most vulnerable, as there is just the one potential breadwinner, and no family to step in when there are setbacks.



The most worrying trend of the last few years is the increase in support needed by the youngest age group; the 18-30 year category. Many of these young people are single, have mental health problems and/or have experienced a period of homelessness. They have often struggled to find employment and lack a solid family background to help them at the start of their career and working life.

# REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023



The Trustees visited many of the applicants in person and contacted several more by telephone to talk through difficult and often complex circumstances to offer practical and moral support.

Help is tailored to individual circumstances, from help with dealing with their energy supplier, to new passports and help to return to The Netherlands. There were frequent requests for help for flooring and white goods from those who moved to empty/bare accommodation and, sadly, we received several requests related to a bereavement.

#### Brief overview of applicants who received help in 2023.

A man in his late thirties who had come to the UK several years ago to live with a close friend to recover from a difficult period with his ex-partner, had let his passport lapse due to the mental stress of his personal situation. He was helped with a temporary travel document and travel costs so he could return to The Netherlands.

A single parent who fled abuse in 2019, and is still being harassed by her ex-husband's family, has had to be relocated several times because of death threats from her ex-husband; she was supported with several months of food vouchers to help her settle in at a new location.

An intervention by the Chair to liaise directly with an energy supplier, regarding a long running dispute between an applicant and the energy company, resolved the dispute and reduced the debt from £7000+ to under £2000 (this debt was built up over a 1.5-year period).

The Charity helped a young woman who had fled domestic abuse with white goods. Having spent 6 months in a women's shelter she was allocated a 1-bedroom flat. These flats are completely empty, stripped of all whitegoods, and flooring. Applicants who have fled home with just the clothes they can take in a carry case are granted accommodation which has more often than not been stripped bare, for health and safety reasons. There is no bedding, no household items, no furniture, and no white goods, and often just a bare floor to sleep on. We receive many requests for help from those fleeing abuse who are faced with the stark fact that a new start in life, is most often from scratch. New furniture and white goods are high-ticket items.

A self-employed personal trainer fell victim to an online fraud and was given temporary support with his day to day living by way of a supermarket voucher. In need of extra work, he responded to a WhatsApp message purporting to be from a job opportunity and lost all his money.

#### "THANK YOU" from our applicants.

"Your support has been really appreciated; with the way you supported me and my family, it makes me even prouder to be Dutch. Thank you."

"I would like to thank you and the board of trustees from the bottom of my heart. This has made my day; I am so grateful! This will be such a great help for me."

"I will continue Thanking God for you, for the money you provide for me. You end shame in my Life."

"I can't thank the Koning Willem Fonds enough for their support. This will be a great help the coming months and give me some much-needed breathing space."

"Bedankt voor de hulp van het KWF dit jaar tijdens een moeilijke tijd. Het heeft veel voor mij betekend en het heeft mijn connectie met Nederland door het KWF een andere, en betere betekenis gegeven. Ik hoop dat jullie werk nog vele andere Nederlanders die het moeilijk hebben in het VK hoop zal bieden."

#### The Varied Ways we have Supported Applicants

The vast majority of support is given in supermarket vouchers, so that the applicants have food on the table, but there are many diverse needs, such as:

- renegotiating (energy) debts
- passport or other identity paperwork
- flooring
- white goods

# STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT LEGAL STATUS

The Charity is governed by statutes as revised in 1961 and registered with the Charity Commissioners under charity number 213032. The Statutes have been amended in subsequent years, the latest being on 29th May 2002.

#### **GUIDELINES**

The Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Social Work Coordinator, decides what assistance can be given. The Board will, in general, give priority to applications made by vulnerable people and those facing an emergency. The Social Work Coordinator sends out the application form, checks the applicant's eligibility and verifies the information provided and prepares a small dossier for the Trustees. The cases are discussed at the monthly Trustees' meetings or earlier if the matter is urgent.

#### **RESERVES POLICY**

The Executive Committee regularly reviews the Society's reserves policy. The level of reserves held is influenced by the annual budget, outstanding grant commitments, economic factors and investment returns.

#### **INVESTMENT POWERS, POLICY AND PERFORMANCE**

The Trustees' investment powers are governed by statute, which permits the Charity's funds to be invested in any security authorised by Law for the investment for the Trust property. The policy of the Trustees is to maintain income whilst preserving the real value of the investments. The Charity's investments have continued to be managed in conformity with our policy and their performance for the year has been acceptable.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Trustees examine the major risks that the Charity faces each year. The Charity has very little fixed costs and no associated risks other than the ability to continue with and increase its current level of charitable work. This relies on the donations and the return of investments. Investments are managed by investment advisors and invested in a wide range of investments to reduce risk.

# REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS Registered Charity number 213032

#### **Principal address**

7 Austin Friars London EC2N 2HA

#### **Trustees**

Mr W van Aken
Ms MHM Berden
Honorary Treasurer (Joint)
Mr B Lahnstein
Honorary Treasurer (Joint)
Honorary Treasurer (Joint)
Honorary Secretary (Joint)
Vice Chair
Ms LG van Hellenberg Hubar
Ds B van de Lagemaat
Minister Dutch Church

Ms M Nauta

Baroness RM van Pallandt

Ms A Schoots

Ms M Sketchley Honorary Secretary (Joint)

Jhr Mr AM Snouck Hurgronje

Ms S Taal (Appointed 01.02.2023)

**Support** 

Ms M Koomans Social Work Coordinator

#### **Independent Examiner**

LEES
Chartered Certified Accountants
Hogarth House
136 High Holborn
London
WC1V 6PX

Approved by order of the board of trustees on	and signed on its behalf by
Ms L. G. van Hellenberg Hubar - Trustee	

Legal Advisor

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NETHERLANDS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

#### Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Netherlands Benevolent Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Netherlands Benevolent Society (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 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
- 3. 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.

Mr Jeremy Hyde FCCA FCA

LEES
Chartered Certified Accountants
Hogarth House
136 High Holborn
London
WC1V 6PX

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023 Unrestricted	2022
	Notes	Total funds £	funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM Donations and legacies		10,339	11,969
Other trading activities Investment income	2 3	2,620 27,022	4,239 27,075
Total		39,981	43,283
EXPENDITURE ON Raising funds	4	6,402	6,669
Charitable activities Social Support Costs Direct Aid Governance costs		23,473 36,610 5,125	18,439 26,370 4,549
Total		71,610	56,027
Net (losses) on investments		(10,063)	_(48,144)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) Other recognised gains/(losses)		(41,692)	(60,888)
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed as	ssets	36,497	(58,523)
Net movement in funds		(5,195)	(119,411)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS Total funds brought forward		1,106,466	1,225,877
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,101,271	1,106,466

#### BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023 Total	2022 Total
		funds	funds
FIVER ASSETS	Notes	£	£
FIXED ASSETS Tangible assets	7	342	_
Investments	8	1,084,004	1,044,306
		1,084,346	1,044,306
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	9	3,736	2,339
Cash at bank and in hand		<u> 18,851</u>	64,206
		22,587	66,545
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(5,662)	(4,385)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		16,925	62,160
TOTAL ACCETO LEGG CURRENT L	IADU ITICO	4 404 074	4 400 400
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT L	IABILITIES	1,101,271	1,106,466
NET ASSETS		1 <u>,101,271</u>	1,106,466
FUNDS	11		
Unrestricted funds	.,	1,101,271	1,106,466
TOTAL FUNDS		1 <u>,101,271</u>	1,106,466
The financial statements were approximately and were		s and authorised	for issue on

Ms L. G. van Hellenberg Hubar - Trustee

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 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, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

#### 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.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Society. Governance costs incurred in connection with administration of the Society and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

#### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

#### **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.

#### Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

#### Investment assets and income

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

Page 11 continued...

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2.	OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES	2023	2022
	Fundraising events	£ 2,620	£ 4,239
3.	INVESTMENT INCOME	2023	2022
	Income from UK listed investments	£ 27,022	£ 27,075
4.	RAISING FUNDS		
	Investment management costs	2023	2022
	Portfolio management	£ 6,402	£ 6,669
5.	TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS		
	There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 31 December 2022.	er 2023 nor for the	e year ended
	Trustees' expenses		
	There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 20.31 December 2022.	23 nor for the	year ended
6.	STAFF COSTS		
	The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:		
	Social work coordinator	2023 1	2022 <u>1</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

#### 7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

TANGIBLE LIXED ASSETS	Computer equipment £
COST Additions	513
DEPRECIATION Charge for year	<u> 171</u>
NET BOOK VALUE At 31 December 2023	<u>342</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>-</u>

Page 12 continued...

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### 8. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

8.	FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS			Listed investments £
	MARKET VALUE At 1 January 2023 Additions Disposals Revaluations			1,044,306 285,734 (282,533) 36,497
	At 31 December 2023			1,084,004
	NET BOOK VALUE At 31 December 2023			1,084,004
	At 31 December 2022			1,044,306
	There were no investment assets outside the UK.			
	Cost or valuation at 31 December 2023 is represented by:			
	Valuation in 2023			Listed investments £ 1,084,004
	valuation in 2023			1,004,004
	The historical cost of the listed investments was £915,598 (2022	- £928,827).		
9.	DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		2023	2022
	Other debtors		£ <u>3,736</u>	£ <u>2,339</u>
10.	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		2023	2022
	Taxation and social security Other creditors		£ 992 4,670	£ 375 4,010
			5,662	4,385
11.	MOVEMENT IN FUNDS			
		At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
	Unrestricted funds General fund	1,106,466	(5,195)	1,101,271
	TOTAL FUNDS	1,106,466	(5,195)	1,101,271

Page 13 continued...

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### 11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds
Unrestricted funds General fund	39,981	(71,610)	26,434	(5,195)
TOTAL FUNDS	39,981	<u>(71,610</u> )	26,434	<u>(5,195</u> )
Comparatives for movement in funds				
		At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds General fund		1,225,877	(119,411)	1,106,466
TOTAL FUNDS		1,225,877	(119,411)	1,106,466
Comparative net movement in funds, included in	the above are as	follows:		
	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds
Unrestricted funds General fund	43,283	(56,027)	(106,667)	(119,411)
TOTAL FUNDS	43,283	(56,027)	(106,667)	(119,411)

This fund represents the capital account where the Board of Trustees have the power to convert such funds into expendable income at their discretion.

#### 12. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

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

#### DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023	2023 £	2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS			
<b>Donations and legacies</b> Donations Gift aid		8,941 1,398	10,046 1,923
		10,339	11,969
Other trading activities Fundraising events		2,620	4,239
Investment income Income from UK listed investments		27,022	27,075
Total incoming resources		39,981	43,283
EXPENDITURE			
Investment management costs Portfolio management		6,402	6,669
Charitable activities Staff salaries Pensions Grants to individuals		21,800 346 36,610 58,756	17,000 308 26,370 43,678
Support costs Management Website Telephone Postage and stationery Printing Travel Computer equipment depreciation		455 184 273 175 69 171	445 23 213 193 257 
Governance costs Sundries Accountancy and legal fees Bank charges Exchange losses		557 4,488 80 	3,958 656 (65) 4,549
Total resources expended		71,610	56,027
Net expenditure before gains and		(31,629)	(12,744)
Realised recognised gains and los Carried forward	ses	(31,629)	(12,744)

# DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
Realised recognised gains and losses	(24,620)	(10.744)
Brought forward Realised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	(31,629) (10,063)	(12,744) <u>(48,144</u> )
Net expenditure	<u>(41,692)</u>	(60,888)