

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05514023 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1111085

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30th September 2023
for
The Knowle Society

West - Chartered Accountants
Office 2 Greswolde House
197b Station Road
Knowle
Solihull
West Midlands
B93 0PU

The Knowle Society

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 6
Independent Examiner's Report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10 to 15
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	16 to 17

The Knowle Society

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30th September 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).

The Knowle Society

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects and powers of the Society, in the governing Memorandum, are:

- o to secure the preservation, protection, development, and improvement of features of general public amenity or historic or public interest in the area of benefit or adjacent areas.
- o to educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area of benefit.
- o to promote a high standard of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit, and to oppose any inappropriate developments.
- o to preserve the character of the area of benefit as a thriving community.

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The Society's area of benefit is the ecclesiastical parish of Knowle.

These objectives have been achieved largely through the work of the committees, Planning, Community Services, Local History, Library Friends, Meetings & Social, Walks and Natural Environment. Information on the Society's activities has been publicised through the Newsletter, the website and social media. The Society also maintains a former telephone kiosk as a point of information for the local community and has representatives on a number of local community organisations and consultative bodies.

Methods used to recruit and appoint new charity trustees

The Trustee Directors may at any time co-opt a member who is qualified to be appointed as an Ordinary Trustee Director to take office until the next AGM, upon which, if elected at the AGM may serve for a period of three years. A retiring Trustee Director who remains qualified may stand for re-election at an AGM. Officers of the Society (Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer) are elected by the members at the AGM.

Community Services Committee

The Community Services Committee continues to maintain close contacts with Solihull M.B.C. It has a representative with the Police, Public Transport providers, and the Airport to ensure that the views of the Society are heard in all relevant areas. We have continued with the help of volunteers to undertake litter picking and maintain the flower beds in the precinct. We were able again to raise funds including a donation from the Society to continue the maintenance of the Knot Garden for 2022/23.

Local History Committee

In our report last year, we mentioned the possibility that the library would have to close for extensive repairs to the roof. This situation remains unchanged.

We have had several gifts of photographs, books, memories and other material for the archive during the year and we are extremely grateful for these. Some are from local people and some from further afield from people with Knowle connections. Some of the contributions came from the estates of previous members.

We have had two Monday morning talks during this year and are planning three for 2024. The talks were by Helen George in June on recreation in Knowle after WW2 and by Elaine Warner in October on the history of Kenilworth Road. Both talks were very well attended and well received. Drinks and cakes afterwards provided the opportunity for socialising. Talks for 2024 are planned in March, May and October.

The exhibitions in the library this year have included a very interesting and well-researched one on Lady Byron. This intrigued many people who had no idea that she was married to THE Lord Byron and had several links to Knowle. The exhibition on Station Road has triggered several memories which have been added to the archive.

Peter and Betty Ewin took a group of people on an historical walk around Knowle during Heritage week. It was organised by Solihull Council and was accompanied by a poet who promised a poem to celebrate the event.

The committee as a whole works hard to maintain the archive and to provide help to people researching for books, other publications and for general interest. We continue to be open on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Saturday mornings in the library.

The Knowle Society

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee has continued considering all the various applications submitted and in due course made its point to the Council where it was agreed necessary to do so.

The proposed scheme off the Wychwood Avenue roundabout which initially included twenty new dwellings was later reduced to just fifteen. Much dialogue has passed between Council and Applicant as well as with ourselves but at the time of writing this Report, no decision has yet been made.

Neither also, has the proposed refurbishment and additional flats at second floor level of the 1960's-built Precinct in the heart of the Conservation Area Appraisal progressed which, in view of the majority of retail units being empty, creates a blight on Knowle at this time. It is hoped the current owners find a way to bring forward the scheme and so replace the lost vitality of Knowle in this area.

Natural Environment Committee

NEC activities are currently on hold due to lack of volunteer support. The trustees would be grateful for any volunteers prepared to support the work to improve our local environment.

Library Friends

The Society makes a significant contribution in the running of the library with several volunteers, whose attendance extend opening hours on a Saturday afternoon.

Meetings, Social & Walks

The events year began in October 2022 with a well-attended quiz night at Knowle Village Hall with the profits being donated to the Half-basketball court campaign as part of the Love Knowle Park Project.

In November, the Village Christmas Tree which has always been organised by the Society was provided and erected as usual. It again formed the centrepiece of the popular event of switching on the Christmas lights throughout the centre of the village, aided by other voluntary organisations and a visit from 'Father Christmas'.

A programme of walks took place; the highlight as usual being that on Boxing Day morning. In May, the Society was involved in the King's coronation celebrations when the High Street in Knowle was closed for a Village-wide party. The 60th anniversary of the founding of the Society was celebrated alongside a heritage weekend in September.

Website and newsletter

In addition to its quarterly Members' Newsletter, the Society continues to make use of social media and direct emailing to keep Members up to date with Society events and other village activities. The website has now been running online membership applications for one year, allowing new members to join the Society online and pay by annual direct debit.

Love Knowle Park Project

Fundraising is now well under way for the second phase of the Knowle Park Improvements. We have raised £15,700 of the required funds which means we are now over halfway towards our target of £30,000 which has increased from the initial £25,000 due to inflation.

Financial results for the Year

At the accounting year end of 30th September 2023 our reserves stood at £109,257 having increased by £7,078 during the year. Of the increase, £3,368 was received from donations to the Love Knowle park project. Nominal accounts showed £26,170 was held in the general fund, £15,700 in the Love Knowle Park fund, £59,177 held in legacy funds and £8,162 in other restricted funds.

Financial aims for the forthcoming year

The trustees will be looking to apply the legacy funds to a variety of projects supporting the aims of the Society.

Membership

Membership on 30th September 2023 stood at 2,544; a reduction of 2.5% on the previous year. Income from subscriptions was £10,056 in total with £289 received from members joining online using the new direct debit scheme.

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy of the Society sets out that sufficient funds are retained to cover a minimum of one year's normal expenditure. The end of year balance was comfortably above that level.

Full set of accounts

The full set of accounts will be available in due course on request to the Treasurer, on the Society's website at <https://www.knowlesociety.org.uk/about/report-and-accounts/> or by emailing treasurer@knowlesociety.org.uk

Gifts in Kind

The Trustee Directors and many other volunteers give freely their time and expertise. It is not considered meaningful to place an accurate value on this gift.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

D.J. Bower (Chairman) - Trustee Director

The Knowle Society

Report of the Trustees **for the Year Ended 30th September 2023**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, and is a company limited by guarantee. As a Charity it is also governed by the provisions of the Charities Act 2016.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. A review of the major risks has been carried out and no additional actions found necessary. The trustees aim to review all policies on a regular basis and with due regard to Charity Commission recommendations.

Data Protection

The trustees maintain an ongoing review of data protection and take the issue of personal data protection very seriously. Anyone wishing to request a copy of their personal data, as held by the Society, may contact the Membership Secretary to make a Subject Access Request.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

05514023 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1111085

Registered office

c/o West - Chartered Accountants
Office 2 Greswolde House
197b Station Road
Knowle, Solihull
West Midlands
B93 0PU

Trustees

D J Bower (Chairman)
D M Fraley (Deputy Chairman)
D N Watson (Treasurer)
L T Jones
D A Pinwell
E M Baker
M S W Warr
A C Bird
M T Brown (Secretary)
R S Marston
G Allan
A J Marston
A P Innes
W L C Bohanna

Independent Examiner

West - Chartered Accountants
Office 2 Greswolde House
197b Station Road
Knowle
Solihull
West Midlands
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The Knowle Society

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bankers

Lloyds Bank Plc
9/11 Poplar Road
Solihull
B91 3AN

Charities Aid Foundation - CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

The Charity Bank Ltd
Fosse House
182 High Street
Tonbridge
TN9 1BE

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

.....
D J Bower (Chairman) - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
The Knowle Society**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Knowle Society ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30th September 2023.

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

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.

S West FCA

West - Chartered Accountants
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Date:

The Knowle Society

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		12,816	3,368	16,184	42,307
Other trading activities	2	2,855	-	2,855	785
Investment income	3	845	-	845	166
Total		16,516	3,368	19,884	43,258
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		5,328	-	5,328	6,617
Charitable activities					
Charitable activities		4,878	631	5,509	15,970
Other		1,969	-	1,969	2,191
Total		12,175	631	12,806	24,778
NET INCOME		4,341	2,737	7,078	18,480
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		21,829	80,350	102,179	83,699
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		26,170	83,087	109,257	102,179

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Balance Sheet
30th September 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at bank		27,270	83,087	110,357	103,659
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(1,100)	-	(1,100)	(1,480)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>26,170</u>	<u>83,087</u>	<u>109,257</u>	<u>102,179</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>26,170</u>	<u>83,087</u>	<u>109,257</u>	<u>102,179</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>26,170</u>	<u>83,087</u>	<u>109,257</u>	<u>102,179</u>
FUNDS	8				
Unrestricted funds				26,170	21,829
Restricted funds				83,087	80,350
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>109,257</u>	<u>102,179</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30th September 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

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

.....
D J Bower (Chairman) - Trustee

The Knowle Society

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, 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 Companies Act 2006. 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 corporation 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.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Social events	1,230	635
Calendars	<u>1,625</u>	<u>150</u>
	<u>2,855</u>	<u>785</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank interest	<u>845</u>	<u>166</u>

The Knowle Society

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30th September 2023 nor for the year ended 30th September 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30th September 2023 nor for the year ended 30th September 2022.

5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (30 SEPTEMBER 2022)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	14,400	27,907	42,307
Other trading activities	785	-	785
Investment income	<u>166</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>166</u>
Total	<u>15,351</u>	<u>27,907</u>	<u>43,258</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	6,617	-	6,617
Charitable activities			
Charitable activities	4,424	11,546	15,970
Other	<u>2,191</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,191</u>
Total	<u>13,232</u>	<u>11,546</u>	<u>24,778</u>
NET INCOME	2,119	16,361	18,480
Transfers between funds	<u>(380)</u>	<u>380</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	1,739	16,741	18,480
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	20,090	63,609	83,699
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>21,829</u>	<u>80,350</u>	<u>102,179</u>

The Knowle Society

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £
COST	
At 1st October 2022 and 30th September 2023	<u>6,225</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1st October 2022 and 30th September 2023	<u>6,225</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 30th September 2023	<u>-</u>
At 30th September 2022	<u>-</u>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Other creditors	<u>1,100</u>	<u>1,480</u>

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.10.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.9.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	21,829	4,341	26,170
Restricted funds			
SUSTAiN Award	207	-	207
Natural Environment Fund	8,466	(510)	7,956
Mary Riley Legacy	58,177	-	58,177
Basketball Court Project	12,500	3,247	15,747
Jarman Legacy	1,000	-	1,000
	<u>80,350</u>	<u>2,737</u>	<u>83,087</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>102,179</u>	<u>7,078</u>	<u>109,257</u>

The Knowle Society

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

8. 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	16,516	(12,175)	4,341
Restricted funds			
Natural Environment Fund	-	(510)	(510)
Basketball Court Project	3,368	(121)	3,247
	<u>3,368</u>	<u>(631)</u>	<u>2,737</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>19,884</u>	<u>(12,806)</u>	<u>7,078</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.10.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 30.9.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	20,090	2,119	(380)	21,829
Restricted funds				
SUSTAiN Award	207	-	-	207
Natural Environment Fund	8,466	-	-	8,466
Playground Project	9,936	(10,316)	380	-
Mary Riley Legacy	45,000	13,177	-	58,177
Basketball Court Project	-	12,500	-	12,500
Jarman Legacy	-	1,000	-	1,000
	<u>63,609</u>	<u>16,361</u>	<u>380</u>	<u>80,350</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>83,699</u>	<u>18,480</u>	-	<u>102,179</u>

The Knowle Society

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	15,351	(13,232)	2,119
Restricted funds			
Playground Project	1,230	(11,546)	(10,316)
Mary Riley Legacy	13,177	-	13,177
Basketball Court Project	12,500	-	12,500
Jarman Legacy	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>27,907</u>	<u>(11,546)</u>	<u>16,361</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>43,258</u>	<u>(24,778)</u>	<u>18,480</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.10.21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 30.9.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	20,090	6,460	(380)	26,170
Restricted funds				
SUSTAiN Award	207	-	-	207
Natural Environment Fund	8,466	(510)	-	7,956
Playground Project	9,936	(10,316)	380	-
Mary Riley Legacy	45,000	13,177	-	58,177
Basketball Court Project	-	15,747	-	15,747
Jarman Legacy	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>63,609</u>	<u>19,098</u>	<u>380</u>	<u>83,087</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>83,699</u>	<u>25,558</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>109,257</u>

The Knowle Society

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	31,867	(25,407)	6,460
Restricted funds			
Natural Environment Fund	-	(510)	(510)
Playground Project	1,230	(11,546)	(10,316)
Mary Riley Legacy	13,177	-	13,177
Basketball Court Project	15,868	(121)	15,747
Jarman Legacy	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>31,275</u>	<u>(12,177)</u>	<u>19,098</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>63,142</u>	<u>(37,584)</u>	<u>25,558</u>

9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30th September 2023.

The Knowle Society

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	3,991	29,134
Subscriptions	10,056	11,006
Taxation refund	<u>2,137</u>	<u>2,167</u>
	16,184	42,307
Other trading activities		
Social events	1,230	635
Calendars	<u>1,625</u>	<u>150</u>
	2,855	785
Investment income		
Bank interest	<u>845</u>	<u>166</u>
Total incoming resources	19,884	43,258
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Meeting expenses	770	462
Social events & visits	656	450
Newsletter & printing	2,660	2,132
Advertising & website	507	525
Membership expenditure	225	693
Gifts & hospitality	-	16
Cost of calendars & cards	1	2,012
Knowle Society 60th Anniversary	<u>509</u>	<u>327</u>
	5,328	6,617
Charitable activities		
Local History Centre	511	791
Christmas expenses	480	1,095
Telephone box project	250	250
Donations given	2,662	1,255
Planning committee	15	6
Natural environment, owl & knot garden projects	1,470	960
Playground project	121	11,546
Public meetings	<u>-</u>	<u>67</u>
	5,509	15,970
Support costs		
Governance costs		
Insurance	490	734
Carried forward	490	734

The Knowle Society

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Governance costs		
Brought forward	490	734
Storage facilities	225	225
Trustee meetings & expenses	535	537
Sundry governance expenditure	71	89
Accountancy	<u>648</u>	<u>606</u>
	<u>1,969</u>	<u>2,191</u>
Total resources expended	<u>12,806</u>	<u>24,778</u>
Net income	<u>7,078</u>	<u>18,480</u>