

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 2024
for
The Knowle Society

West - Chartered Accountants
Suite K, Priest House
1624 High Street
Knowle
Solihull
West Midlands
B93 0JU

The Knowle Society

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for the Year Ended 30th September 2024**

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The Knowle Society

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

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 2024. 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 2024**

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 they, 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 annually by the members at the AGM.

Community Services

Community Services continues to maintain close contacts with Solihull M.B.C re parking issues and traffic flow and other issues which may affect the Community. We have representation with WMfPT Police 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. Village public events are supported.

Local History Committee

The group has been involved in a careful and thorough reorganisation of the entire archive organised and led by Angela Bird ably assisted by Ann Bower, our archivist, and Bill Bohanna. Everything is now safely stored and labelled making it easier to access for exhibitions and enquiries.

Exhibitions this year have included 'Changes along Station Road' followed by Marjorie Stubbs' comprehensive and enlightening display about Ada Lovelace and her local connections. This was followed by a survey of Knowle's open spaces and the part played by local people in enhancing them.

Monday morning talks have been very popular and have included the development of the Lyons' family businesses in Knowle and Life in Knowle between the Wars. More talks are planned.

The archives continue to be accessible on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Saturday mornings of the month and have been used to prepare talks e.g. by Helen George and for the preparation of Phil Stephens' book on Living on Knowle High Street.

We took two groups around the centre of Knowle on Heritage Day in September explaining the history of the buildings and the people, mainly on the High Street.

Many thanks to all members of the committee and other contributors to the Archive.

The Knowle Society

Report of the Trustees **for the Year Ended 30th September 2024**

Planning Committee

Your committee has continued to comment on many applications for Knowle which has resulted in a number of our recommendations being accepted by the Council. This is gratifying and makes our efforts worthwhile. However, our biggest challenge in the coming year is that of the replacement Local Plan for Solihull - the Council's having withdrawn the draft which was initially proposed in late 2016. Furthermore, the recent publication of an up-dated National Planning Framework Policy suggests that we will be presented with many challenges during the coming year.

Natural Environment Committee

NEC activities have been reduced during the year due to lack of volunteer support. However, the Knowle Society has reached out to other local groups to establish working partnerships for the future. The trustees would be grateful for any volunteers prepared to support the work to improve our local environment.

Library Friends

The volunteers welcomed 956 people to the library over the year by enabling it to remain open on Saturday afternoons

Meetings, Social & Walks

In November 2023, 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'.

The Society was involved in the Knowle mid-summer event on the 15th of June acting as marshals in addition to having an exhibition stand. On Heritage Day, 14th September, the Society organised various events including local walks and tours of the church tower.

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 two years, allowing new members to join the Society online and pay by annual direct debit.

Love Knowle Park Project

Love Knowle Park team completed the necessary fundraising for a new basketball court in Knowle Park. The funding was achieved through a combination of local donations, a legacy fund managed by The Knowle Society and a successful application to the Construction Infrastructure Levy fund managed by the local authority. SMBC procured a contractor and oversaw the works which are expected to complete in January 2025. We will be arranging an event early 2025 to mark formal opening of the Basketball Court.

Events

During the year the Society was saddened to learn of the death of a former President, Peter Ellis.

Financial results for the Year

At the accounting year end of 30th September 2024 our reserves stood at £112,060 having increased by £2,803 during the year. Nominal accounts showed £28,757 was held in the general fund, £16,323 in the Love Knowle Park fund, £59,177 held in legacy funds and £7,803 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.

The Knowle Society

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

Membership

Membership on 30th September 2024 stood at 2,550; an increase of 6 on the previous year. Income from subscriptions was £9,650 in total with £652 received from members using the new direct debit scheme.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy of the Society is 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.

The full set of accounts will be available in due course on request to the Treasurer, on the Society's website at <https://www.knowledgesociety.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 2024**

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
Suite K Priest House
1624 High Street
Knowle, Solihull
West Midlands
B93 0JU

The Knowle Society

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

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
Suite K, Priest House
1624 High Street
Knowle
Solihull
West Midlands
B93 0JU

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

Nationwide Building Society
Nationwide House
Pipers Way
Swindon
SN38 1NW

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 2024.

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
Suite K, Priest House
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Solihull
West Midlands
B93 0JU

Date:

The Knowle Society

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		11,514	208	11,722	16,184
Other trading activities	2	888	-	888	2,855
Investment income	3	1,945	-	1,945	845
Total		<u>14,347</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>14,555</u>	<u>19,884</u>
 EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	4	5,130	-	5,130	5,328
Charitable activities					
Charitable activities		4,157	360	4,517	5,509
Other		<u>2,105</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,105</u>	<u>1,969</u>
Total		<u>11,392</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>11,752</u>	<u>12,806</u>
 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)					
Transfers between funds	9	2,955 (368)	(152) 368	2,803 -	7,078 -
Net movement in funds		2,587	216	2,803	7,078
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		26,170	83,087	109,257	102,179
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>28,757</u>	<u>83,303</u>	<u>112,060</u>	<u>109,257</u>

The Knowle Society

Balance Sheet
30th September 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at bank		30,663	83,303	113,966	110,357
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	(1,906)	-	(1,906)	(1,100)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>28,757</u>	<u>83,303</u>	<u>112,060</u>	<u>109,257</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>28,757</u>	<u>83,303</u>	<u>112,060</u>	<u>109,257</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>28,757</u>	<u>83,303</u>	<u>112,060</u>	<u>109,257</u>
FUNDS	9				
Unrestricted funds				28,757	26,170
Restricted funds				<u>83,303</u>	<u>83,087</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>112,060</u>	<u>109,257</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30th September 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2024 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 2024

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
Social events	888	1,230
Calendars	-	1,625
	<u>888</u>	<u>2,855</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank interest	<u>1,945</u>	<u>845</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

4. RAISING FUNDS

Investment management costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
New equipment	<u>668</u>	<u>-</u>

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30th September 2024 nor for the year ended 30th September 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30th September 2024 nor for the year ended 30th September 2023.

6. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (30 SEPTEMBER 2023)

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	12,816	3,368	16,184
Other trading activities	2,855	-	2,855
Investment income	<u>845</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>845</u>
Total	<u>16,516</u>	<u>3,368</u>	<u>19,884</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	5,328	-	5,328
Charitable activities			
Charitable activities	4,878	631	5,509
Other	<u>1,969</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,969</u>
Total	<u>12,175</u>	<u>631</u>	<u>12,806</u>
NET INCOME	4,341	2,737	7,078
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	<u>21,829</u>	<u>80,350</u>	<u>102,179</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>26,170</u></u>	<u><u>83,087</u></u>	<u><u>109,257</u></u>

The Knowle Society

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £
COST	
At 1st October 2023 and 30th September 2024	<u>6,225</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1st October 2023 and 30th September 2024	<u>6,225</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 30th September 2024	<u>-</u>
At 30th September 2023	<u>-</u>

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	<u>1,906</u>	<u>1,100</u>

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.10.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 30.9.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	26,170	2,955	(368)	28,757
Restricted funds				
SUSTAiN Award	207	-	-	207
Natural Environment Fund	7,956	(360)	-	7,596
Mary Riley Legacy	58,177	-	-	58,177
Basketball Court Project	15,747	208	368	16,323
Jarman Legacy	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>83,087</u>	<u>(152)</u>	<u>368</u>	<u>83,303</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>109,257</u>	<u>2,803</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>112,060</u>

The Knowle Society

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

9. 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	14,347	(11,392)	2,955
Restricted funds			
Natural Environment Fund	-	(360)	(360)
Basketball Court Project	<u>208</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>208</u>
	<u>208</u>	<u>(360)</u>	<u>(152)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>14,555</u></u>	<u><u>(11,752)</u></u>	<u><u>2,803</u></u>

Comparatives for 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	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>80,350</u>	<u>2,737</u>	<u>83,087</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>102,179</u></u>	<u><u>7,078</u></u>	<u><u>109,257</u></u>

Comparative 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	<u>3,368</u>	<u>(121)</u>	<u>3,247</u>
	<u>3,368</u>	<u>(631)</u>	<u>2,737</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>19,884</u></u>	<u><u>(12,806)</u></u>	<u><u>7,078</u></u>

The Knowle Society

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	At 1.10.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 30.9.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	21,829	7,296	(368)	28,757
Restricted funds				
SUSTAiN Award	207	-	-	207
Natural Environment Fund	8,466	(870)	-	7,596
Mary Riley Legacy	58,177	-	-	58,177
Basketball Court Project	12,500	3,455	368	16,323
Jarman Legacy	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>80,350</u>	<u>2,585</u>	<u>368</u>	<u>83,303</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>102,179</u>	<u>9,881</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>112,060</u>

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	30,863	(23,567)	7,296
Restricted funds			
Natural Environment Fund	-	(870)	(870)
Basketball Court Project	<u>3,576</u>	<u>(121)</u>	<u>3,455</u>
	<u>3,576</u>	<u>(991)</u>	<u>2,585</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>34,439</u>	<u>(24,558)</u>	<u>9,881</u>

10. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30th September 2024.

The Knowle Society

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	244	3,991
Subscriptions	9,649	10,056
Taxation refund	<u>1,829</u>	<u>2,137</u>
	11,722	16,184
Other trading activities		
Social events	888	1,230
Calendars	<u>-</u>	<u>1,625</u>
	888	2,855
Investment income		
Bank interest	<u>1,945</u>	<u>845</u>
Total incoming resources	14,555	19,884
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Meeting expenses	491	770
Social events & visits	656	656
Newsletter & printing	2,420	2,660
Advertising & website	429	507
Membership expenditure	466	225
Cost of calendars & cards	-	1
Knowle Society 60th Anniversary	<u>-</u>	<u>509</u>
	4,462	5,328
Investment management costs		
New equipment	668	-
Charitable activities		
Local History Centre	712	511
Christmas expenses	510	480
Telephone box project	250	250
Donations given	1,115	2,662
Planning committee	1,570	15
Natural environment, owl & knot garden projects	360	1,470
Playground project	<u>-</u>	<u>121</u>
	4,517	5,509
Support costs		

The Knowle Society

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 30th September 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Support costs		
Governance costs		
Insurance	214	490
Storage facilities	225	225
Trustee meetings & expenses	574	535
Sundry governance expenditure	414	71
Independent examination fee	<u>678</u>	<u>648</u>
	<u>2,105</u>	<u>1,969</u>
Total resources expended	<u>11,752</u>	<u>12,806</u>
Net income	<u>2,803</u>	<u>7,078</u>