



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	01	2023		31	12	2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name **ASTBURY MERE TRUST**

Other names charity is known by **None**

Registered charity number (if any) **1007740**

Charity's principal address **Astbury Mere Country Park**
Sandy Lane,
Congleton, Cheshire
Postcode CW12 4AW

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Alison Cresswell	Chair	Retired 10.10.23	
2	Sarah Dean	Secretary		
3	Lorraine Mort	Treasurer		
4	Caroline Whiting			
5	Gavin Wolfenden			
6	John Whitehead		Retired 12.07.23	
7	Gillian Taylor		Appt 20.07.23- retired 10.09.23	
8	Richard Mort			
9	Margaret Gartside	Chair appt 10.10.23		
10	Peter Speed			
11	Graham Cresswell			
12	Suzie Akers Smith			
13	Philip Howell			
14	George Robert Edwards		Appt 20.07.23	
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity’s trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Memorandum of Association
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Voting of current Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity’s organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees’ consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To provide for the benefit of the inhabitants of Congleton and district a managed and maintained country park at Astbury Mere in perpetuity for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving life for the said inhabitants.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The trustees confirm that the main activities undertaken during the reporting period have been in accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The main activities undertaken by the trust were land management operations to maintain and improve the Country Park for the benefit and enjoyment of the public. The activities were arranged through our Ranger Service and most involved volunteer work either in full or in part.

The key activities for 2023 were:

Ongoing maintenance operations, along with repairs to paths, seats, fencing and signage kept the park looking in prime condition. Annual tasks were completed through the year including the cutting back of vegetation adjacent to paths throughout the site, around the Wildlife Area pond and in the Community Orchard. The various meadows throughout the park had their seasonal cuts, with bramble and self-sown saplings removed from the meadows on the east bank of the park.

Work continued on the thinning of the woodland at the southern end of the park and the final safety works to ensure all the recommendations from the independent Tree and Woodland safety audit were completed.

Initial tree survey work was also undertaken in advance of the production of a new 10 year woodland management plan for the site, due next year.

Volunteer clients from the Rossendale Trust spent a number of days trimming some of the park's shrub beds. We also welcomed several individual volunteers, work experience students and young people undertaking restorative justice work in the community. In total the equivalent of 52 additional 'person days' (excluding work undertaken by volunteer trustees) were committed to the site over the course of the year.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

We do not have any permanent or semi-permanent volunteers.

Volunteers are sought for particular jobs or projects as needed. Our primary source is from those who have volunteered in the past; volunteers come from many sources including individuals, organised groups such as The Rossendale Trust and businesses looking for activities to support their social responsibility programmes.

Section D- Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Park remained as popular as ever throughout the year, with an estimated 400,00 visitors now enjoying the facilities – a significant increase on previous years.

Regular groups from Congleton U3A and Congleton Writers Forum continued to utilise the Community Room and the weekly Congleton Park Run remained well frequented, as previous years.

We hosted a couple of sponsored walks and two enjoyable birdwatching events. In addition, a new orienteering course was established in the park, overseen by Peak Pursuits. Educational visits were made to the park by local schools and scout groups.

A new flower planter was installed outside the Community Room – a feature centrepiece surrounded by five information boards about the park's wildlife. New donated planters were also installed around the café, making an attractive addition to this setting.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

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Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

While the income derived from the Trust's investments only represents 8.6% of the total income it is necessary to ensure that the reserves are kept as safe as possible whilst generating the best level of return. The investment objective is to generate a return bettering inflation over the long term, after expenses. This should allow the Trust to at least maintain the value of the investment, whilst the income from that investment is used to contribute to the running cost of managing and maintaining the park.

All investments should produce a return in line with the Trust's stated investment objectives agreed by the Trustees and where practical ensuring that those funds are invested ethically.

Section F

Other optional information

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Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full name(s) Sarah Dean

Sarah Dean	

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) Secretary

Date 27.08.24

Charity registration number 1007740

Company registration number 02331405 (England and Wales)

ASTBURY MERE TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mrs S Dean G F Cresswell L I Mort R B Mort Cllr S M Akers Smith Mr P Speed Mrs Caroline Whiting Mr P Howell Mr G Wolfenden Mrs M A F Gartside Mr G R Edwards	(Appointed 20 July 2023)
Secretary	Mrs S Dean	
Charity number	1007740	
Company number	02331405	
Principal address	Trustee Office Astbury Mere Country Park Sandy Lane Congleton Cheshire England CW12 4FP	
Registered office	Trustee Office Astbury Mere Country Park Sandy Lane Congleton Cheshire England CW12 4AW	
Independent examiner	Amanda Grint, FCCA Hammond McNulty LLP Bank House Market Square Congleton Cheshire England CW12 1ET	

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

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ASTBURY MERE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's articles of association, the Companies Act 2006 and "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 main purpose of the charity is to manage and maintain the country park at Astbury Mere, Congleton. To provide for the benefit of the inhabitants of Congleton and district a managed and maintained country park at Astbury Mere in perpetuity for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving life for the said inhabitants.

Significant activities

The trustees confirm that the main activities undertaken during the reporting period have been in accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The main activities undertaken by the trust were land management operations to maintain and improve the Country Park for the benefit and enjoyment of the public. The activities were arranged through our Ranger Service and most involved volunteer work either in full or in part.

The key activities for 2023 were:

Ongoing maintenance operations, along with repairs to paths, seats, fencing and signage kept the park looking in prime condition. Annual tasks were completed through the year including the cutting back of vegetation adjacent to paths throughout the site, around the Wildlife Area pond and in the Community Orchard. The various meadows throughout the park had their seasonal cuts, with bramble and self-sown saplings removed from the meadows on the east bank of the park.

Work continued on the thinning of the woodland at the southern end of the park and the final safety works to ensure all the recommendations from the independent Tree and Woodland safety audit were completed.

Initial tree survey work was also undertaken in advance of the production of a new 10 year woodland management plan for the site, due next year.

Volunteer clients from the Rossendale Trust spent a number of days trimming some of the park's shrub beds. We also welcomed several individual volunteers, work experience students and young people undertaking restorative justice work in the community. In total the equivalent of 52 additional 'person days' (excluding work undertaken by volunteer trustees) were committed to the site over the course of the year.

Volunteers

We do not have any permanent or semi-permanent volunteers.

Volunteers are sought for particular jobs or projects as needed. Our primary source is from those who have volunteered in the past; volunteers come from many sources including individuals, organised groups such as the The Rossendale Trust and businesses looking for activities to support their social responsibility programmes.

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

The park remained as popular as ever through the year, with an estimated 400,000 visitors now enjoying the facilities - a significant increase on previous years.

Regular groups from Congleton U3A and Congleton Writers Forum continued to utilise the Community Room and the weekly Congleton Park Run remained well frequented, as previous years.

We hosted a couple of sponsored walks and two enjoyable birdwatching events. In addition, a new orienteering course was established in the park, overseen by Peak Pursuits. Educational visits were made to the park by local schools and scout groups.

A new flower planter was installed outside the Community Room - a feature centrepiece surrounded by five information boards about the park's wildlife. New donated planters were also installed around the café, making an attractive addition to this setting.

Financial review

While the income derived from the Trust's investments only represents 8.6% of the total income it is necessary to ensure that the reserves are kept as safe as possible whilst generating the best level of return. The investment objective is to generate a return bettering inflation over the long term, after expenses. This should allow the Trust to at least maintain the value of the investment, whilst the income from that investment is used to contribute to the running cost of managing and maintaining the park.

All investments should produce a return in line with the Trust's stated investment objectives agreed by the Trustees and where practical ensuring that those funds are invested ethically.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Reference and administrative details

Registered Company number

02331405 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1007740

Registered office

Trustee Office
Astbury Mere Country Park
Sandy Lane,
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 4FP

Company Secretary

Mrs S Dean

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs S Dean

A Cresswell

(Resigned 10 October 2023)

G F Cresswell

L I Mort

R B Mort

Cllr S M Akers Smith

Mr P Speed

Mrs Caroline Whiting

Mr P Howell

Mr G Wolfenden

Mrs M A F Gartside

Mr G R Edwards

(Appointed 20 July 2023)

G B Taylor

(Appointed 20 July 2023 and resigned 10 September 2023)

Mr J M Whitehead

(Resigned 12 January 2023)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees can be appointed at any meeting of the trustees. Anyone wishing to become a trustee has to submit an application to the trustees. At the AGM one third of the trustees, being the longest serving members, retire and can stand for re-election, so that trustees are effectively voted in for 3 years. Trustees are voted in by a majority vote.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mrs M A F Gartside

Trustee

17 September 2024

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASTBURY MERE TRUST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Astbury Mere Trust (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Charity 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 the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable 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 that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements 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 financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Amanda Grint, FCCA

Hammond McNulty LLP
Bank House
Market Square
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 1ET
England

Dated: 19 September 2024

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	5,126	17,340	22,466	6,856	1,642	8,498
Charitable activities	4	78,540	-	78,540	70,852	-	70,852
Investments	5	7,855	-	7,855	6,412	-	6,412
Total income		<u>91,521</u>	<u>17,340</u>	<u>108,861</u>	<u>84,120</u>	<u>1,642</u>	<u>85,762</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	2,354	-	2,354	2,320	-	2,320
Charitable activities	7	87,118	575	87,693	84,306	835	85,141
Total expenditure		<u>89,472</u>	<u>575</u>	<u>90,047</u>	<u>86,626</u>	<u>835</u>	<u>87,461</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	<u>9,194</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,194</u>	<u>(26,884)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(26,884)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>11,243</u>	<u>16,765</u>	<u>28,008</u>	<u>(29,390)</u>	<u>807</u>	<u>(28,583)</u>
Transfers between funds		<u>6,989</u>	<u>(6,989)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,157</u>	<u>(3,157)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	9	<u>18,232</u>	<u>9,776</u>	<u>28,008</u>	<u>(26,233)</u>	<u>(2,350)</u>	<u>(28,583)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		<u>450,896</u>	<u>11,287</u>	<u>462,183</u>	<u>477,129</u>	<u>13,637</u>	<u>490,766</u>
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		<u>469,128</u>	<u>21,063</u>	<u>490,191</u>	<u>450,896</u>	<u>11,287</u>	<u>462,183</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		217,791		205,563
Investments	15		222,879		212,235
			<u>440,670</u>		<u>417,798</u>
Current assets					
Stocks	16	7		280	
Debtors	17	10,168		7,348	
Cash at bank and in hand		53,885		50,881	
		<u>64,060</u>		<u>58,509</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(14,539)		(14,124)	
		<u>49,521</u>		<u>44,385</u>	
Net current assets			49,521		44,385
			<u>490,191</u>		<u>462,183</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			490,191		462,183
			<u>490,191</u>		<u>462,183</u>
Net assets			490,191		462,183
			<u>490,191</u>		<u>462,183</u>
			<u>490,191</u>		<u>462,183</u>
The funds of the Charity					
Restricted income funds	19		21,063		11,287
Unrestricted funds			469,128		450,896
			<u>490,191</u>		<u>462,183</u>
			<u>490,191</u>		<u>462,183</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 17 September 2024

Mrs M A F Gartside
Trustee

Company registration number 02331405 (England and Wales)

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Astbury Mere Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Trustee Office, Astbury Mere Country Park, Sandy Lane, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 4AW, England.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's articles of association, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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 Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. Investments are included at market value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the Charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, 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 classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	2% on reducing balance and not provided on land
Plant and equipment	10% on reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings	10% on reducing balance
Computers	10% on reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.11 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Donations and gifts	4,798	17,340	22,138	6,647	1,642	8,289
Gift Aid	328	-	328	209	-	209
	<u>5,126</u>	<u>17,340</u>	<u>22,466</u>	<u>6,856</u>	<u>1,642</u>	<u>8,498</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Room Hire		
Income from charitable activities	4,368	4,467
Catering Concession		
Income from charitable activities	26,362	19,204
Car Parking		
Income from charitable activities	21,603	21,159
Rents Received		
Income from charitable activities	26,207	26,022
	<u>78,540</u>	<u>70,852</u>

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Listed Investment Income	7,242	6,330
Interest receivable	613	82
	<u>7,855</u>	<u>6,412</u>

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Trading costs		
Stock Movement	273	120
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Investment management	2,081	2,200
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total costs	2,354	2,320
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Total Costs 2023 £	Total Costs 2022 £
Direct costs		
Depreciation and impairment	5,507	5,669
Wages	12,849	11,958
Pensions	205	172
Rates and Water	710	1,113
Insurance	6,714	6,002
Light and heat	9,107	4,167
Telephone	433	299
Postage and stationery	151	251
Sundries	1,656	1,628
Repairs	15,174	16,007
Warden Costs	28,533	27,519
Footpath Project Costs	-	5,846
PSP Charges	1,274	542
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	82,313	81,173
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Share of support and governance costs (see note 8)		
Governance	5,380	3,968
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	87,693	85,141
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	87,118	84,306
Restricted funds	575	835
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	87,693	85,141
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

8 Support costs allocated to activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank Charges	1,011	820
Paypal Fees	186	142
Governance costs	4,183	3,006
	<u>5,380</u>	<u>3,968</u>
Analysed between:		
Total Costs	<u>5,380</u>	<u>3,968</u>

9 Net movement in funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	5,507	3,937
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	1,732
	<u>5,507</u>	<u>3,937</u>

10 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the year.

Trustees' expenses

Trustee expenses paid in the year totalled £NIL (£46 2022). Repairs (2022 £4 to one trustee), general expenses (2022 £42 to one trustee).

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12 Gains and losses on investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Gains/(losses) arising on:		
Revaluation of investments	9,220	(24,778)
Sale of investments	(26)	(2,106)
	<u>9,194</u>	<u>(26,884)</u>

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Plant and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computers £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 January 2023	210,675	27,085	7,119	4,673	249,552
Additions	-	-	17,735	-	17,735
	<u>210,675</u>	<u>27,085</u>	<u>24,854</u>	<u>4,673</u>	<u>267,287</u>
At 31 December 2023					
At 31 December 2023	210,675	27,085	24,854	4,673	267,287
	<u>210,675</u>	<u>27,085</u>	<u>24,854</u>	<u>4,673</u>	<u>267,287</u>
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 January 2023	19,135	17,184	4,297	3,373	43,989
Depreciation charged in the year	2,331	990	2,056	130	5,507
	<u>21,466</u>	<u>18,174</u>	<u>6,353</u>	<u>3,503</u>	<u>49,496</u>
At 31 December 2023					
At 31 December 2023	21,466	18,174	6,353	3,503	49,496
	<u>21,466</u>	<u>18,174</u>	<u>6,353</u>	<u>3,503</u>	<u>49,496</u>
Carrying amount					
At 31 December 2023	189,209	8,911	18,501	1,170	217,791
	<u>189,209</u>	<u>8,911</u>	<u>18,501</u>	<u>1,170</u>	<u>217,791</u>
At 31 December 2022	191,540	9,901	2,822	1,300	205,563
	<u>191,540</u>	<u>9,901</u>	<u>2,822</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>205,563</u>

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

15 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2023	212,235
Additions	53,847
Valuation changes	9,220
Realised loss	(26)
Disposals	(52,397)
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2023	222,879
	<hr/>
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2023	222,879
	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 December 2022	212,235
	<hr/> <hr/>

16 Stocks

	2023 £	2022 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	7	280
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

17 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	1,822	105
Other debtors	310	211
Prepayments and accrued income	8,036	7,032
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10,168	7,348
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other taxation and social security	547	334
Trade creditors	4,642	3,905
Other creditors	37	100
Accruals and deferred income	9,313	9,785
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	14,539	14,124
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Mrs D Dillion	480	-	-	-	480
Medium Term Reserve	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Defibrillator Replacement	325	-	-	-	325
Dogbath	60	-	-	-	60
Toilet Refurbishment Phase 1	422	6,152	-	(6,574)	-
Toilet Refurbishment Phase 2	-	415	-	(415)	-
Toilet Refurbishment Phase 3	-	198	-	-	198
Biodiveristy Project	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Educational Signs Plant Stand	-	575	(575)	-	-
	<u>11,287</u>	<u>17,340</u>	<u>(575)</u>	<u>(6,989)</u>	<u>21,063</u>

Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Mrs D Dillion	480	-	-	-	480
Medium Term Reserve	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Co-op Community Fund	1,857	-	-	(1,857)	-
Footpath Resurfacing	1,300	-	-	(1,300)	-
Defibrillator Replacement	-	1,160	(835)	-	325
Dogbath	-	60	-	-	60
Toilet Refurbishment	-	422	-	-	422
	<u>13,637</u>	<u>1,642</u>	<u>(835)</u>	<u>(3,157)</u>	<u>11,287</u>

20 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>450,896</u>	<u>91,521</u>	<u>(89,472)</u>	<u>6,989</u>	<u>9,194</u>	<u>469,128</u>

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

20 Unrestricted funds (Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	477,129	84,120	(86,626)	3,157	(26,884)	450,896

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
At 31 December 2023:			
Tangible assets	217,791	-	217,791
Investments	222,879	-	222,879
Current assets/(liabilities)	28,458	21,063	49,521
	469,128	21,063	490,191
At 31 December 2022:			
Tangible assets	205,563	-	205,563
Investments	212,235	-	212,235
Current assets/(liabilities)	33,098	11,287	44,385
	450,896	11,287	462,183

22 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

Charity registration number 1007740

Company registration number 02331405 (England and Wales)

ASTBURY MERE TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Mrs S Dean G F Cresswell L I Mort R B Mort Cllr S M Akers Smith Mr P Speed Mrs Caroline Whiting Mr P Howell Mr G Wolfenden Mrs M A F Gartside Mr G R Edwards	(Appointed 20 July 2023)
Secretary	Mrs S Dean	
Charity number	1007740	
Company number	02331405	
Principal address	Trustee Office Astbury Mere Country Park Sandy Lane Congleton Cheshire England CW12 4FP	
Registered office	Trustee Office Astbury Mere Country Park Sandy Lane Congleton Cheshire England CW12 4AW	
Independent examiner	Amanda Grint, FCCA Hammond McNulty LLP Bank House Market Square Congleton Cheshire England CW12 1ET	

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

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Statement of financial activities	5
Balance sheet	6
Notes to the financial statements	7 - 16

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's articles of association, the Companies Act 2006 and "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 main purpose of the charity is to manage and maintain the country park at Astbury Mere, Congleton. To provide for the benefit of the inhabitants of Congleton and district a managed and maintained country park at Astbury Mere in perpetuity for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving life for the said inhabitants.

Significant activities

The trustees confirm that the main activities undertaken during the reporting period have been in accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The main activities undertaken by the trust were land management operations to maintain and improve the Country Park for the benefit and enjoyment of the public. The activities were arranged through our Ranger Service and most involved volunteer work either in full or in part.

The key activities for 2023 were:

Ongoing maintenance operations, along with repairs to paths, seats, fencing and signage kept the park looking in prime condition. Annual tasks were completed through the year including the cutting back of vegetation adjacent to paths throughout the site, around the Wildlife Area pond and in the Community Orchard. The various meadows throughout the park had their seasonal cuts, with bramble and self-sown saplings removed from the meadows on the east bank of the park.

Work continued on the thinning of the woodland at the southern end of the park and the final safety works to ensure all the recommendations from the independent Tree and Woodland safety audit were completed.

Initial tree survey work was also undertaken in advance of the production of a new 10 year woodland management plan for the site, due next year.

Volunteer clients from the Rossendale Trust spent a number of days trimming some of the park's shrub beds. We also welcomed several individual volunteers, work experience students and young people undertaking restorative justice work in the community. In total the equivalent of 52 additional 'person days' (excluding work undertaken by volunteer trustees) were committed to the site over the course of the year.

Volunteers

We do not have any permanent or semi-permanent volunteers.

Volunteers are sought for particular jobs or projects as needed. Our primary source is from those who have volunteered in the past; volunteers come from many sources including individuals, organised groups such as the The Rossendale Trust and businesses looking for activities to support their social responsibility programmes.

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

The park remained as popular as ever through the year, with an estimated 400,000 visitors now enjoying the facilities - a significant increase on previous years.

Regular groups from Congleton U3A and Congleton Writers Forum continued to utilise the Community Room and the weekly Congleton Park Run remained well frequented, as previous years.

We hosted a couple of sponsored walks and two enjoyable birdwatching events. In addition, a new orienteering course was established in the park, overseen by Peak Pursuits. Educational visits were made to the park by local schools and scout groups.

A new flower planter was installed outside the Community Room - a feature centrepiece surrounded by five information boards about the park's wildlife. New donated planters were also installed around the café, making an attractive addition to this setting.

Financial review

While the income derived from the Trust's investments only represents 8.6% of the total income it is necessary to ensure that the reserves are kept as safe as possible whilst generating the best level of return. The investment objective is to generate a return bettering inflation over the long term, after expenses. This should allow the Trust to at least maintain the value of the investment, whilst the income from that investment is used to contribute to the running cost of managing and maintaining the park.

All investments should produce a return in line with the Trust's stated investment objectives agreed by the Trustees and where practical ensuring that those funds are invested ethically.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Reference and administrative details

Registered Company number

02331405 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1007740

Registered office

Trustee Office
Astbury Mere Country Park
Sandy Lane,
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 4FP

Company Secretary

Mrs S Dean

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs S Dean

A Cresswell

(Resigned 10 October 2023)

G F Cresswell

L I Mort

R B Mort

Cllr S M Akers Smith

Mr P Speed

Mrs Caroline Whiting

Mr P Howell

Mr G Wolfenden

Mrs M A F Gartside

Mr G R Edwards

(Appointed 20 July 2023)

G B Taylor

(Appointed 20 July 2023 and resigned 10 September 2023)

Mr J M Whitehead

(Resigned 12 January 2023)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees can be appointed at any meeting of the trustees. Anyone wishing to become a trustee has to submit an application to the trustees. At the AGM one third of the trustees, being the longest serving members, retire and can stand for re-election, so that trustees are effectively voted in for 3 years. Trustees are voted in by a majority vote.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mrs M A F Gartside

Trustee

17 September 2024

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ASTBURY MERE TRUST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Astbury Mere Trust (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Charity 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 the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable 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 that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements 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 financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Amanda Grint, FCCA

Hammond McNulty LLP
Bank House
Market Square
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 1ET
England

Dated: 19 September 2024

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	5,126	17,340	22,466	6,856	1,642	8,498
Charitable activities	4	78,540	-	78,540	70,852	-	70,852
Investments	5	7,855	-	7,855	6,412	-	6,412
Total income		<u>91,521</u>	<u>17,340</u>	<u>108,861</u>	<u>84,120</u>	<u>1,642</u>	<u>85,762</u>
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	2,354	-	2,354	2,320	-	2,320
Charitable activities	7	87,118	575	87,693	84,306	835	85,141
Total expenditure		<u>89,472</u>	<u>575</u>	<u>90,047</u>	<u>86,626</u>	<u>835</u>	<u>87,461</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	<u>9,194</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,194</u>	<u>(26,884)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(26,884)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>11,243</u>	<u>16,765</u>	<u>28,008</u>	<u>(29,390)</u>	<u>807</u>	<u>(28,583)</u>
Transfers between funds		<u>6,989</u>	<u>(6,989)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,157</u>	<u>(3,157)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	9	<u>18,232</u>	<u>9,776</u>	<u>28,008</u>	<u>(26,233)</u>	<u>(2,350)</u>	<u>(28,583)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		<u>450,896</u>	<u>11,287</u>	<u>462,183</u>	<u>477,129</u>	<u>13,637</u>	<u>490,766</u>
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		<u>469,128</u>	<u>21,063</u>	<u>490,191</u>	<u>450,896</u>	<u>11,287</u>	<u>462,183</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		217,791		205,563
Investments	15		222,879		212,235
			<u>440,670</u>		<u>417,798</u>
Current assets					
Stocks	16	7		280	
Debtors	17	10,168		7,348	
Cash at bank and in hand		53,885		50,881	
		<u>64,060</u>		<u>58,509</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(14,539)		(14,124)	
Net current assets			<u>49,521</u>		<u>44,385</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>490,191</u>		<u>462,183</u>
Net assets			<u>490,191</u>		<u>462,183</u>
			<u><u>490,191</u></u>		<u><u>462,183</u></u>
The funds of the Charity					
Restricted income funds	19		21,063		11,287
Unrestricted funds			469,128		450,896
			<u>490,191</u>		<u>462,183</u>
			<u><u>490,191</u></u>		<u><u>462,183</u></u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 17 September 2024

Mrs M A F Gartside
Trustee

Company registration number 02331405 (England and Wales)

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Astbury Mere Trust is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Trustee Office, Astbury Mere Country Park, Sandy Lane, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 4AW, England.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's articles of association, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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 Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. Investments are included at market value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the Charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, 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 classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	2% on reducing balance and not provided on land
Plant and equipment	10% on reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings	10% on reducing balance
Computers	10% on reducing balance

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.11 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Donations and gifts	4,798	17,340	22,138	6,647	1,642	8,289
Gift Aid	328	-	328	209	-	209
	<u>5,126</u>	<u>17,340</u>	<u>22,466</u>	<u>6,856</u>	<u>1,642</u>	<u>8,498</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Room Hire		
Income from charitable activities	4,368	4,467
Catering Concession		
Income from charitable activities	26,362	19,204
Car Parking		
Income from charitable activities	21,603	21,159
Rents Received		
Income from charitable activities	26,207	26,022
	<u>78,540</u>	<u>70,852</u>

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Listed Investment Income	7,242	6,330
Interest receivable	613	82
	<u>7,855</u>	<u>6,412</u>

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Trading costs		
Stock Movement	273	120
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Investment management	2,081	2,200
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total costs	2,354	2,320
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Total Costs 2023 £	Total Costs 2022 £
Direct costs		
Depreciation and impairment	5,507	5,669
Wages	12,849	11,958
Pensions	205	172
Rates and Water	710	1,113
Insurance	6,714	6,002
Light and heat	9,107	4,167
Telephone	433	299
Postage and stationery	151	251
Sundries	1,656	1,628
Repairs	15,174	16,007
Warden Costs	28,533	27,519
Footpath Project Costs	-	5,846
PSP Charges	1,274	542
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	82,313	81,173
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Share of support and governance costs (see note 8)		
Governance	5,380	3,968
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	87,693	85,141
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	87,118	84,306
Restricted funds	575	835
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	87,693	85,141
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

8 Support costs allocated to activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank Charges	1,011	820
Paypal Fees	186	142
Governance costs	4,183	3,006
	<u>5,380</u>	<u>3,968</u>
	<u>5,380</u>	<u>3,968</u>
Analysed between:		
Total Costs	<u>5,380</u>	<u>3,968</u>

9 Net movement in funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	5,507	3,937
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	1,732
	<u>5,507</u>	<u>3,937</u>

10 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Charity during the year.

Trustees' expenses

Trustee expenses paid in the year totalled £NIL (£46 2022). Repairs (2022 £4 to one trustee), general expenses (2022 £42 to one trustee).

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12 Gains and losses on investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Gains/(losses) arising on:		
Revaluation of investments	9,220	(24,778)
Sale of investments	(26)	(2,106)
	<u>9,194</u>	<u>(26,884)</u>

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Plant and equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computers £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 January 2023	210,675	27,085	7,119	4,673	249,552
Additions	-	-	17,735	-	17,735
	<u>210,675</u>	<u>27,085</u>	<u>24,854</u>	<u>4,673</u>	<u>267,287</u>
At 31 December 2023					
At 31 December 2023	210,675	27,085	24,854	4,673	267,287
	<u>210,675</u>	<u>27,085</u>	<u>24,854</u>	<u>4,673</u>	<u>267,287</u>
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 January 2023	19,135	17,184	4,297	3,373	43,989
Depreciation charged in the year	2,331	990	2,056	130	5,507
	<u>21,466</u>	<u>18,174</u>	<u>6,353</u>	<u>3,503</u>	<u>49,496</u>
At 31 December 2023					
At 31 December 2023	21,466	18,174	6,353	3,503	49,496
	<u>21,466</u>	<u>18,174</u>	<u>6,353</u>	<u>3,503</u>	<u>49,496</u>
Carrying amount					
At 31 December 2023	189,209	8,911	18,501	1,170	217,791
	<u>189,209</u>	<u>8,911</u>	<u>18,501</u>	<u>1,170</u>	<u>217,791</u>
At 31 December 2022	191,540	9,901	2,822	1,300	205,563
	<u>191,540</u>	<u>9,901</u>	<u>2,822</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>205,563</u>

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

15 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2023	212,235
Additions	53,847
Valuation changes	9,220
Realised loss	(26)
Disposals	(52,397)
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2023	222,879
	<hr/>
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2023	222,879
	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 December 2022	212,235
	<hr/> <hr/>

16 Stocks

	2023 £	2022 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	7	280
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

17 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	1,822	105
Other debtors	310	211
Prepayments and accrued income	8,036	7,032
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10,168	7,348
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other taxation and social security	547	334
Trade creditors	4,642	3,905
Other creditors	37	100
Accruals and deferred income	9,313	9,785
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	14,539	14,124
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Mrs D Dillion	480	-	-	-	480
Medium Term Reserve	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Defibrillator Replacement	325	-	-	-	325
Dogbath	60	-	-	-	60
Toilet Refurbishment Phase 1	422	6,152	-	(6,574)	-
Toilet Refurbishment Phase 2	-	415	-	(415)	-
Toilet Refurbishment Phase 3	-	198	-	-	198
Biodiveristy Project	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Educational Signs Plant Stand	-	575	(575)	-	-
	<u>11,287</u>	<u>17,340</u>	<u>(575)</u>	<u>(6,989)</u>	<u>21,063</u>

Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Mrs D Dillion	480	-	-	-	480
Medium Term Reserve	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Co-op Community Fund	1,857	-	-	(1,857)	-
Footpath Resurfacing	1,300	-	-	(1,300)	-
Defibrillator Replacement	-	1,160	(835)	-	325
Dogbath	-	60	-	-	60
Toilet Refurbishment	-	422	-	-	422
	<u>13,637</u>	<u>1,642</u>	<u>(835)</u>	<u>(3,157)</u>	<u>11,287</u>

20 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	450,896	91,521	(89,472)	6,989	9,194	469,128
	<u>450,896</u>	<u>91,521</u>	<u>(89,472)</u>	<u>6,989</u>	<u>9,194</u>	<u>469,128</u>

ASTBURY MERE TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

20 Unrestricted funds (Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Gains and losses	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	477,129	84,120	(86,626)	3,157	(26,884)	450,896

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
At 31 December 2023:			
Tangible assets	217,791	-	217,791
Investments	222,879	-	222,879
Current assets/(liabilities)	28,458	21,063	49,521
	<u>469,128</u>	<u>21,063</u>	<u>490,191</u>
	<u><u>469,128</u></u>	<u><u>21,063</u></u>	<u><u>490,191</u></u>
	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
At 31 December 2022:			
Tangible assets	205,563	-	205,563
Investments	212,235	-	212,235
Current assets/(liabilities)	33,098	11,287	44,385
	<u>450,896</u>	<u>11,287</u>	<u>462,183</u>
	<u><u>450,896</u></u>	<u><u>11,287</u></u>	<u><u>462,183</u></u>

22 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).