

**The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and
Cattle Trough Association
162nd Annual Report
for the Year Ended
31st December 2023**

Registered under the Charities Act 2006 no 207743

www.drinkingfountains.org

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association

Report and Financial Statements Year Ended 31 December 2023

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The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association

Report and Financial Statements Year Ended 31 December 2023

(Registered under the Charities Act 2006-No. 207743)

Vice President A Buxton

Chairman JE Mills
Treasurer A King
Secretary RP Baber

Executive Committee

The members of the Executive Committee at 31 December 2023 and their respective dates of appointment were:

JE Mills	(1977)	Mrs L Erith	(2003)
RP Baber	(1982)	Mrs S Fuller	(2004)
A King	(2002)	M Slater	(2012)
MW Elliott	(1995)	P O'Connell	(2013)
Sir M Bear	(2002)		

Independent Examiner Mr JR Fisher
24 Wealden Drive
Chichester
PO18 0SF

Bankers Barclays Bank PLC
Business Centre
6 Market Place
Bexleyheath
Kent DA5 7DY

Investment Manager M&G Securities Limited
PO Box 9039
Chelmsford
CM99 2XF

Subscriptions and donations should be made payable to "The Drinking Fountain Association" and sent to the Secretary at Oaklands, 5 Queenborough Gardens, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6NP.

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association

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Trustees Annual Report

The Committee have pleasure in submitting their one hundred and sixty-second annual report for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Legal Structure

The Association is governed by a constitution, which was last amended in September 2012 and is managed by a Committee.

Principal Office

The principal office of the Association is Oaklands, 5 Queenborough Gardens, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 6NP.

Association's Records

The bulk of the Association's historic records are now held at The London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0AB. Telephone: 020 7332 3820. The Secretary maintains a computer database of all the Association's drinking fountains, cattle troughs and dog troughs. A data base of the Associations records can be found its website www.drinkingfountains.org

Committee Members

The management of the Association is vested in the Committee which shall consist of not less than six nor more than fifteen members of the association who on appointment will assume the responsibilities of Trustee within the meaning of the Charities Act 2006.

Potential Committee Members are interviewed by the Committee and if approved are appointed onto the Committee. New candidates retire at the next Annual General Meeting and offer themselves for re-election by the members. A third of the Committee retires at the Annual General Meeting. All new Trustees are provided with an induction pack which includes the constitution of the Association and guidelines on how to perform their duties as a Trustee. Further training is given by the Treasurer and the Secretary at Committee meetings as and when necessary. The day to day running of the Association is delegated to the office of the Secretary who administers the expenses and payments of grants in conjunction with the Treasurer.

All members of the Committee serving at 31st December 2023 are noted on page two

Administration and Related Parties

Administration costs of £5,500 (2022: £5,500) are in respect of secretarial and administrative services which are provided by a company which RP Baber, a member of the Committee has an interest in.

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association

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Trustees Annual Report (continued)

Objectives

The objectives of the Association are to promote the provision of drinking water for people and animals in the United Kingdom and overseas, and the preservation of the Association's archive materials, artefacts, drinking fountains, cattle troughs and other installations.

Review of Activities and Future Plans

Subscription and donations remained stable at £275 (2022: £275) and investment income rose to £46,031 (2022: £44,685). Like in the previous Geopolitical tension and inflation impacted the investment portfolio that has impacted our investment portfolio which fell by -2.35% (2022: -5.57%) in capital terms with a year-end value of £772,567 (2022: £791,157). Despite these challenges, the Association maintained an operating surplus of £13,585 (2022: £22,327).

The Association welcomes applications for grants to help fund projects that fall within its objectives. In 2023 the Association's grants totalled £26,354 (2022: £16,392). A detailed breakdown of all grants made can be found on page 15. In principle, the Association allocates about one-third of its net income to overseas projects. For cost effectiveness, these donations are channelled through other appropriate charitable associations. Based on the merits of grant applications the Committee makes a monetary award ranging from £50 to £4,000. A further third is allocated to restoration work. With the final third being allocated to the provision of Novus drinking fountains to schools. Over the years the Association has recognised a need for supplying fountains to schools throughout the United Kingdom. The Association typically gifts a Novus drinking fountain to a school on the condition that the school pays £50 to join the Association.

Find a Fountain

The organisation was founded to make the public aware of the waste of using bottled water when there is a plentiful supply of easily accessed water. The public can log on and look at the map to find their nearest clean water source at www.findafountain.org.

School Fountains

The Committee has awarded 4 fountains this year.

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association

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Trustees Annual Report (continued)

No of Fountains	Establishment
1	The Limes College Sutton West Centre Robin Hood Lane SM1 2SD
3	Harris Academy Wide Way Mitcham Surrey CR4 1BP

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association

Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 December 2023

Trustees Annual Report (continued)

The present totals of fountains, wells, pumps and troughs supplied from the foundation of the Association are as follows:

	Metropolitan Area	Provinces and Abroad	Total
Drinking fountains	3,580	1,225	4,805
Cattle troughs	466	463	929
Dog troughs	3,045	676	3,721
Water wells	-	193	193
Elephant pumps	-	11	11
Dams	-	5	5
Water Tanks	-	13	13
Water Filtration Systems	-	16	16

Grants provided

Water Harvest

A grant of £2,000 was agreed to train 22 women to treat the contaminated pond and to sell on some of the water to benefit the villages of Dumbai and Krachi in Ghana.

Kanaama Interactive Community

A grant of £2,000 was agreed to support the construction of 7,000L rainwater harvesting tanks in Mbarara Uganda thus freeing up the old wells for livestock.

Teso

A grant of £3,000 was agreed to fund wells at Akwabi and Oluka in the Kasaka sub County in the Teso region of Uganda.

AZAR

A grant of £1,000 was agreed to provide water connection, plumbing and sanitation work on the newly constructed toilet block at the Chilowa school and emergency repair work to the bore hold at Kisasa Primary School, Tanzania.

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association

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Trustees Annual Report (continued)

Makhad Trust

A grant of £4,000 was agreed to restore 4 drinking wells in South Sinai Egypt.

The School Club Zambia

A grant of £1,250 was agreed to fund drilling of a borehole at Matambo Primary School in Sinazongwe Zambia.

Karen Hilltribes

A grant of £1,250 was agreed to fund a gravity fed water system in Mae Hong Son Province in Northern Thailand.

Frank Water

A grant of £1,250 was agreed to revive a water spring in Uttarakhand in the Indian Himalayas.

Active in Redbourn

A grant of £2,000 was agreed for two water fountains for visitors and sporting community at two sites, one in the High Street and one at the Cricket Pavillion. This grant was originally agreed in July 2021 at the Committee Meeting.

Restoration work

Market Cross Charity

A grant of £2,000 was agreed to restore a fountain at the Cross Market in Central London.

Hartford Civic Society

A grant of £500 was agreed to restore water to a fountain at the junction of Chester and Bradburns Lane.

Ironbridge and Coalbrookdale Civic Society

A grant of £2,000 was agreed towards the cost of moving John Bartlett fountain back to Ironbridge.

Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum in London had decided that the fountain gifted by the Association should be returned as the Museum was expanding the area housing the fountain. Following an inspection by the artist Mark Coreth it was noted that the fountain needed to be restored. The Committee paid a grant of £2,376 to Mark Coreth to move the fountain to his studio to commence restoration work. No provision has been made in the accounts for the restoration work. Once the fountain is restored it is the intention of the Committee to sell it.

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association

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Trustees Annual Report (continued)

Future development of the Association

The Association's aim for the future is to provide drinking water for humans and animals and to preserve its archive materials, drinking fountains, cattle troughs and other installations. The Committee considers the need for funding projects based on the amount of income that its capital investments generate and allocate these accordingly. In exceptional circumstances the Committee may use capital to fund its objectives. The Committee endeavours to allocate a third of its income to funding projects overseas

Risks facing the Charity

The Committee have assessed the major risks to which the Association is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Association and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate the Association's exposure to major risks.

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association

Report and Financial Statements Year ended 31st December 2023

Statement of Public Benefit

The Committee confirms that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in determining the activities undertaken by the Association.

Financial Review

The Committee set out the financial statements on page 12 to page 18. The net incoming resources for the year were £46,306 (2022: £ 44,490), and £32,721 expended (2022: £22,633). Unrealised loss on investments amounted to £18,590 (2022 loss: £46,667). The deficit for the year transferred to the reserves was £5,005 (2022 deficit: £24,340).

Investments

The Association's investments are held in Charifund, which is managed by M &G Securities. Charifund made an unrealised loss of £18,590 (2022 loss: £46,667).

The Trustees have taken a prudent approach to investing the Association's funds. They wish to maintain as a strong capital base as possible whilst providing sufficient annual income to meet the needs of the Association. This is achieved through investment in the above fund. No social, environmental or ethical considerations are taken into account by the investment managers used by the Association.

Reserves

It is the policy of the Trustees to maintain reserves in the Association at a level to enable it to be administered efficiently, to meet its short-term expenditure requirements, and to have adequate resources to fund its charitable objectives. In establishing this policy, the Trustees have considered the disposition of its incoming resources which are mainly derived from its investments. The level of reserves is subject to periodic review when considering changes to the charity's activities and requirements.

In the opinion of the Trustees the reserves of the Association, currently amounting to £833,864 (2022: £838,869) are needed to generate funds on an ongoing basis. The Trustees confirm that the Association's assets are readily available and in the opinion of the Trustees adequate to fulfil the obligations of the Trust.

Pensions

The Association has no pension commitments.

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association

Report and Financial Statements Year Ended 31 December 2023

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, as amended by the Charities Act 2006, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions (only required if the accounts are included on the website)

J Mills

Chairman

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE METROPOLITAN DRINKING FOUNTAIN AND CATTLE TROUGH ASSOCIATION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Name: **John R Fisher**

Date:

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association

Statement of Financial Activities Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted	
		2023	2022
		£	£
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income			
Subscriptions received	1	275	275
Investment Income	1	46,031	44,685
Total incoming resources		46,306	44,490
Resources expended			
Charitable activities	2	31,854	21,892
Governance costs	3	867	741
Total resources expended		32,721	22,633
Net incoming resources		13,585	22,327
(Loss) on investment assets	4	(18,590)	(46,667)
Net movement in funds		(5,005)	(24,340)
Total funds brought forward		838,869	863,209
Total funds carried forward		833,864	838,869

All recognised gains and losses have been dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities.

All income and expenditure relate to continuing operations.
The notes on pages 14-18 form part of these financial statements.

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association

Statement of Financial Activities

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	5	772,567	791,157
Website	5	-	-
		772,567	791,157
Current assets			
Cash at the bank		64,707	48,312
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		3,410	600
		61,297	47,712
Net current assets			
		833,864	838,869
Net assets			
Funds			
Unrestricted funds		833,864	838,869

Approved by the Board of Trustees on and signed
on its behalf by

J Mills
Chairman

A King
Treasurer

The notes on pages 14 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1. Statement of accounting policies

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared on the historic cost convention with the exception that investments are valued at market value. The accounts are in accordance with applicable accounting standards, Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE) (effective 1 January 2015) and comply with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Charities Act 2011.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. Unrealised gains/losses reflect the effect of changes in market values of investments.

Investment income

Investment income is accrued to the date of the balance sheet. All investment income is credited to the Statement of Financial Activities.

Website

The Find a Fountain website is fully depreciated having been written off over 3 years.

Donations and interest

Donations and interest are accounted for on a received basis.

Grants

Grants made towards the cost of new structures are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities when approved and recipients are notified.

Governance costs

Governance costs are the costs of governance arrangements which relate to the general running of the charity including both direct and related support costs. Costs are accounted for on a paid basis unless a material creditor is outstanding.

Cash flow statement

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption from preparing a cash flow statement conferred by Financial Reporting Standard No 1.

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

2. Charitable activities

All grants were made to institutions. During the year the following grants were made:

	2023	2022
Jenson Fountain	-	2,000
Ealing Park Foundation	-	2,000
Mark Corweth Art (Natural History Museum Fountain)	2,376	
Sustainable Global Gardens	-	1,230
Frank Water	1,250	
Azar	1,000	2,000
Teso	3,000	1,500
Makhad Trust	4,000	1,500
The School Club Zambia	1,250	-
Water Harvest	2,000	-
Kanaama Interactive Community	2,000	-
Karen Hilltribes	1,250	-
Dumi International Aid	-	2,000
WSUP	-	2,000
Ironbridge and Coalbrookdale Civic Society	2,000	-
Market Cross Charity	2,000	-
Active in Redbourn	2,000	-
Other grants paid to schools and restoration work not exceeding £1,000	2,228	-
Grants Payable	26,354	16,392
Secretarial and administrative services	5,500	5,500
Total charitable activities	31,854	21,892

The secretarial and administrative services are provided by a company which R P Baber, a member of the Committee, has an interest in.

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

3. Governance costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent examination of accounts	660	600
Other	207	140
	<hr/> 867	<hr/> 740

No trustees received any payments from the charity during the year £Nil (2022; nil).

4. Gains/(losses) on investment assets

	2023	2022
	£	£
Unrealised loss	(18,590)	(46,667)

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

5. Fixed assets

Investments

	The Equities Investment Fund for Charities (‘Charifund’) £
Market value 1 January 2023	791,157
Addition in the year	-
Net unrealised investment loss	(18,590)
Market value 31 December 2023	772,567
	£
Historical cost at 1st January 2023	246,739
Addition	
Historical cost at 31 December 2023	246,739

All investments are in collective investment funds and are UK investments.

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Website

Cost	£
Cost at 1 January 2023	15,000
Cost at 31 December 2023	15,000
Depreciation	
Balance at 1 January 2023	15,000
Charge for the year	-
Balance at 31 December 2023	15,000
Net Book Value at 31 December 2023 and 2022	-

6. Contingent liabilities and contractual commitment

At 31 December 2023 there were no grants approved which were dependent on matched funding (2022:Nil).