



The League of the Helping Hand

Life + Help = Hope

**ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015**

Founded 1908

Registered Charity No: 208792

**A Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England No: 00307257**

THE LEAGUE OF THE HELPING HAND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

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The following does not form part of the statutory Financial Statements:

16	Donations
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THE LEAGUE OF THE HELPING HAND
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Vice President: Mr P de Winton

General Committee

Chairman: Ms M Burton

Hon. Treasurer: Mr O Haines

Hon. Solicitor: Mr I Burman

Mrs P Boucher

Mrs J Horley

Mr W Horley

Mr J Korn

Mrs G Lavelle (Resigned 3 March 2015)

Mrs B Salter

Mrs E Thorn

Hon. Life Member: Mr P de Winton

Secretariat: Mrs S Freestone

Mrs YL Hughes

PO Box 342, Burgess Hill, RH15 5AQ

Tel: 01444 236099 E Mail: secretary@lhh.org.uk

Website: www.lhh.org.uk

Registered Office: 2 St Andrews Place
Lewes
East Sussex BN7 1UP

Bankers: CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner: VMR Anderson BA (Hons) FCA DChA
Clark Brownscombe Limited
2 St Andrews Place, Lewes
East Sussex BN7 1UP

Fund Managers: Smith & Williamson Investment Management
Portwall Place, Portwall Lane
Bristol BS1 6NA

THE LEAGUE OF THE HELPING HAND

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

Chairman's Report

LHH is a charity that exists to support people of all ages who have a special need in time of crisis by way of one off financial grants of up to £250. We also support a limited number of ongoing beneficiaries by way of regular quarterly payments. The hope is to provide an immediate and positive contribution to making daily life easier to manage in purely practical ways.

LHH was founded by Miss Edith Ashby in 1908 and since that time, the League has helped as many individuals and families as funding would allow. Grant funding is maximised by keeping overheads to a minimum.

In the latter end of the year, we have concentrated on a new initiative aimed at providing more support for carers. Financial assistance is being offered towards short holiday breaks as well as other areas to help ease the demanding role of being a full time carer.

On the administrative side, we have taken the opportunity to update our website to provide better information and assistance to those making applications for grants. For the first time, the website is now mobile friendly and going forward, there are plans for online completion and submission of grant application forms.

We have had one retirement from the general committee of trustees; Trot Lavelle has been a committed and valued trustee of LHH for 25 years. Her many years of experience will be sorely missed.

Funding for LHH comes largely from income derived from investments, donations from other charitable trusts, organizations and individual donors. We receive no public funds or funds from Government or other statutory bodies. Applicants' benefits are not usually affected by individual payments, but those in receipt of regular quarterly payments do need to declare these. We are very grateful to all those who contribute to support our work. We remain particularly grateful to those donors who support us on a regular basis; this enables us to contribute to a much wider range of applicants than would otherwise be the case.

Our main targets for the forthcoming year are to review and simplify our application form with a view to making this easier for sponsors to complete and to continue to explore further avenues for fund raising; an area which is becoming increasingly challenging.

Mary Burton
April 2015

THE LEAGUE OF THE HELPING HAND

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

Originally an unincorporated body, The League of The Helping Hand (LHH) is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 29 October 1935 as amended subsequently. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission.

Organisation

LHH is governed by its trustees who are directors of the company and who make up the general committee. Prior to the appointment of any new trustee, he or she is asked to attend at least two of the general committee's quarterly meetings before a decision is made to appoint. Details of the trustees and the appointments and resignations during the year are set out in the Legal and Administrative Information on page 1.

Risk Management

The trustees regularly review the risks to which the charity is exposed and implement procedures to mitigate them. There are internal controls built into the procedures which the trustees believe are working satisfactorily.

Objective and Activities

LHH's objective is to help and alleviate individual cases of suffering in mind or body among persons who, in the opinion of the general committee of LHH, require financial assistance owing to ill health, accident or infirmity and are both deserving and necessitous.

LHH's current policy is to help three different categories of beneficiary; Regular Beneficiaries, Single Payment Beneficiaries and Carers, all of whom need to be referred by independent agencies.

The charity operates throughout the United Kingdom and the grant making policy is reviewed annually to ensure that it reflects the objects and advance public benefit.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting the expenditure priorities for the year ahead.

Activities - achievements and performance

Regular Beneficiaries

Since April 2014 seven new beneficiaries have been taken on, including LHH's first beneficiary in Northern Ireland. One individual has relinquished his benefaction. Very sadly four of our beneficiaries have died this year. This brings the current total number of people receiving our regular grant payments to 76. Throughout the year, the quarterly beneficiary secretary has received many letters, cards and emails expressing thanks and gratitude for the help given.

THE LEAGUE OF THE HELPING HAND

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

Financial difficulties can arise, for some, as a result of an unexpected illness or injury; a regular grant for a short period of time may help a family through a time of crisis:-

'We are now in a position to cope without The League of the Helping Hand's assistance. Life has indeed been very difficult at times, financially and emotionally. We were very fortunate that you agreed to help us and I'm sure we would have been in great difficulty by now without the League's assistance. Keep up the good work.'

Others, with a lifelong condition, may find they are no longer able to manage financially, particularly in the present economic climate:-

'I wish to express my gratitude to the Trustees of LHH for taking me on as a regular beneficiary of the charity. It will be a great help to me in my present circumstances.'

Central to the philosophy of LHH's work is the personal support and communication given to every beneficiary so that they feel cared about and not just another name.

To this end the quarterly beneficiary secretary endeavours to make a personal visit each year, wherever it is practically possible. In addition to the visits, the secretary maintains good communication links with all beneficiaries via quarterly newsletters, emails, telephone calls, birthday and Christmas cards and welcomes any correspondence from them.

Single Payment Beneficiaries

The number of one-off grants has dropped 9.3% this financial year. Out of the 874 application forms received (964 in 2013/14), LHH was able to give a positive response to 455 (52%) applicants; an increase of 16% from last year.

LHH grants range from £50 to £250 maximum. Of the grants awarded, the average (mean) amount was £150 (£152 in 2013/14) and the most frequently awarded amount was £150.

Grants were awarded towards the purchase of essential household furnishings such as beds, sofas and wardrobes; white electrical goods, clothing/footwear as well as contributing towards utility bills/heating oil, hospital travelling and daily living expenses.

The Worshipful Company of Mercers continues to support LHH's welfare programme and their annual grant of £20,000 is a considerable boost to the Single Payment's fund.

THE LEAGUE OF THE HELPING HAND

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

Carers' Breaks

£20,422 has been set aside for a dedicated Carers' project. This money will be granted towards holidays and other specific requests as made by carers to help support their wellbeing.

Financial Overview

Overview

The total income is substantially less than 2013/14 due to the exceptional rebate received in that year of £14,159 and a sharp reduction in donations.

Whilst investment income has increased by a modest 3.74% to £118,750 an increase of £4,215, this is offset by the reduction in Donations and Subscriptions from £19,583 to £10,865 a reduction of £8,898.

Income and Expenditure

The overall income for the year of £152,513 is down by £17,098 due to the reasons mentioned in the overview above.

Annual administration costs (excluding cost for website) are slightly lower than the previous year at £26,438. An increase in secretarial remuneration is inevitable after a three year freeze and has been budgeted for in the coming year.

Advantage was taken in the year to upgrade the website with £6,492 spent as a one off cost. The secretariat has also been trained to modify and upgrade as required.

Investment Portfolio

LHH is reliant on the performance of the portfolio to maintain the capital base whilst providing high yields. Approximately 75% is invested in equities being similar to 2014 with the balance in Government and fixed interest accounts.

The market value of investments at the year end taking account of unrealised and realised gains and losses shows an increase to 2014.

THE LEAGUE OF THE HELPING HAND

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

The Future

The income forecast for this coming year 2015/16 is likely to be in line with that achieved for 2014/15. There is concern over the ability to obtain donations and additional efforts will be made in this regard.

The budget for 2015/16 envisages a continuation of existing activities with grants covered by net anticipated income after expenditure.

The number of regular beneficiaries is budgeted to continue at current levels on the basis that income levels are maintained. LHH continues to focus on making resources stretch as far as possible to cover beneficiaries' needs.

Investment Management

The investment portfolio is managed by Smith & Williamson Investment Management (S&W). In order to comply with the Trustee Investment Act 2000, and as recommended by S&W, the investment objectives and policy are reviewed on a regular basis by the general committee. The level of investment risk is also established and agreed in accordance with guidelines provided by S&W. The primary objective is to maximise income whilst maintaining capital growth through a diversified portfolio of securities.

Reserves Policy

LHH meets its obligations to beneficiaries out of the income derived from the investment portfolio and the grants it receives, and may on occasion do so out of capital. The level of reserves is sufficient to cover forthcoming management and administrative expenditure and regular grants and donations to which it is committed.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The members of the general committee of trustees, as trustees and directors, are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements. The trustees have chosen to prepare financial statements for the company in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP). Company law requires the trustees to prepare such financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit for that period and comply with UK GAAP and the Companies Act 2006.

In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:-

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures and explained in the financial statements;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

THE LEAGUE OF THE HELPING HAND
REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safe-guarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By order of the General Committee

Yee Ling Hughes - Secretary

Date: 30 June 2015

THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE LEAGUE OF THE HELPING HAND

I report on the financial statements of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2015, which are set out on pages 10 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities' Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE LEAGUE OF THE HELPING HAND
(CONTINUED)

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - b. to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Company Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised 2005)

have not been met; or

- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

V M R Anderson BA (Hons) FCA DChA
Chartered Accountant
Clark Brownscombe Limited
2 St Andrews Place
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 1UP

Date: 15 July 2015

THE LEAGUE OF THE HELPING HAND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

		Unrestricted Funds	
	Note	2015 £	2014 £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income:			
- Investment income		121,664	128,694
- Bank deposit interest		164	1,334
- Subscriptions		1,857	2,491
- Donations		8,828	17,092
- Grants		<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>152,513</u>	<u>169,611</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Costs of generating funds:			
- Investment management costs		9,805	9,690
Charitable activities	2	158,006	135,166
Governance costs	3	<u>1,722</u>	<u>1,687</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		<u>169,533</u>	<u>146,543</u>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		(17,020)	23,068
Other recognised gains on investment assets		<u>29,431</u>	<u>28,846</u>
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR		12,411	51,914
Fund balances at 1 April 2014		<u>2,542,660</u>	<u>2,490,746</u>
Fund balances at 31 March 2015		<u>2,555,071</u>	<u>2,542,660</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE LEAGUE OF THE HELPING HAND
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

		2015	2014
INCOME	£	£	£
Investment income receivable		121,664	128,694
Bank deposit interest		164	1,334
Subscriptions and donations		10,685	19,583
Mercer's grant		<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
		<u>152,513</u>	<u>169,611</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES			
Communications	1,825		1,621
Accountancy fees	1,722		1,687
Secretariat fees	22,130		23,446
Sundry expenses	366		545
Office equipment purchase and maintenance	44		-
Insurance	351		351
Website	<u>6,492</u>		<u>-</u>
		<u>32,930</u>	<u>27,650</u>
NET INCOME		<u>119,583</u>	<u>141,961</u>
GIFTS			
Payments relating to regular beneficiaries:			
Quarterly gifts	52,726		50,611
Christmas gifts	4,660		4,550
Holidays	2,200		2,400
Visits	2,292		2,853
Payments to other beneficiaries:			
One-off gifts	<u>64,920</u>		<u>48,789</u>
		<u>126,798</u>	<u>109,203</u>
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		<u>(7,215)</u>	<u>32,758</u>

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

		2015	2014
		£	£
Retained (deficit)/surplus for the year		(7,215)	32,758
Investment managers fees		(9,805)	(9,690)
Realised (losses)/gains on investments		(46,988)	31,078
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation of investments		<u>76,419</u>	<u>(2,232)</u>
Total recognised gains for the year		<u>12,411</u>	<u>51,914</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements.

**THE LEAGUE OF THE HELPING HAND
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2015
COMPANY NUMBER: 00307257**

	Note	2015 £	2014 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	6	2,508,719	<u>2,489,093</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors		11,212	20,966
Cash at bank		<u>43,276</u>	<u>37,900</u>
		54,488	58,866
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year		<u>8,136</u>	<u>5,299</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>46,352</u>	<u>53,567</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>2,555,071</u>	<u>2,542,660</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds - includes revaluation reserve of £479,940 (2014: £406,452)		<u>2,555,071</u>	<u>2,542,660</u>

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2015.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

These financial statements were approved on behalf of the General Committee on 30 June 2015.

Oliver Haines - (Hon Treasurer)

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE LEAGUE OF THE HELPING HAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

1. Accounting Policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of the investment portfolio and incorporate the results of the principal activity which is described in the General Committee's report and which is continuing. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008). In addition they have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2005".

b) Income

Income for the year comprises investment income, bank interest, subscriptions, donations, grants and legacies and is accounted for on the receivable basis.

c) Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered.

The main categories of expenditure are:-

- Charitable activities include grants made and related support costs.
- Costs of generating funds are investment management costs.
- Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

d) Grants payable

Amounts payable to the beneficiaries are accounted for when the charity is committed to paying them.

e) Fund accounting

Unrestricted Funds: these are generally funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

f) Investments

Investments are included in the financial statements at their market value. Gains or losses arising on realisation are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. The historical cost of the investments was £2,029,574 (2014: £2,079,466).

THE LEAGUE OF THE HELPING HAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

g) **Donations**
Donations and fund raising income are accounted for when received.

h) **Legacies**
Legacies are accounted for when received.

2. Charitable Activities

	2015 £	2014 £
Grants	126,798	109,203
Other support costs	<u>31,208</u>	<u>25,963</u>
	<u>158,006</u>	<u>135,166</u>

3. Governance Costs

	2015 £	2014 £
Accountancy fees	<u>1,722</u>	<u>1,687</u>

4. Trustees remuneration

No trustee received any remuneration and it is not general practice to reimburse travel expenses to trustees.

5. Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

THE LEAGUE OF THE HELPING HAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

6. Investments

	Investments	Cash net of liabilities	Total 2015	Total 2014
	£	£	£	£
Market value at 1 April 2014	2,485,919	3,174	2,489,093	2,468,661
Additions at cost	234,198	-	234,198	309,156
Disposal proceeds	(240,033)	-	(240,033)	(200,158)
Net investing movement		5,835	5,835	(108,998)
Investment income retained in CAF and Close Brothers	-	-	-	1,276
Investment manager's fees	-	(9,805)	(9,805)	(9,690)
	2,480,084	(796)	2,479,288	2,460,247
Unrealised gains/(losses)	76,419	-	76,419	(2,232)
Realised (losses)/gains	(46,988)	-	(46,988)	31,078
Market value at 31 March 2015	<u>2,509,515</u>	<u>(796)</u>	<u>2,508,719</u>	<u>2,489,093</u>

7. Share capital

The company is limited by guarantee, having no share capital, members having a liability not exceeding £1 each.

THE LEAGUE OF THE HELPING HAND

DONATIONS

LHH would like to thank all those who have made donations during the year. These include:-

General Donations

EasyFundraising
HC Coleman Charitable Trust
Mrs Le Couteur
Mrs H Jones
Sir John Sumner's Trust
Spencer Hart Charitable Trust
The Sydney Black Charitable Trust
The Worshipful Company of Mercers
ZVM Rangoonwala Foundation

SUPPORTING LHH

LHH welcomes fundraising support by all methods including:

- Gift Aid
- Donations
- Events and sponsorship
- Legacies
- Membership of LHH
- www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lhh - online shopping portal

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements