

**THE SOUTH WOODFORD SOCIETY (SWS)
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE ACCOUNTING PERIOD ENDED ON 31 DECEMBER 2023

The South Woodford Society (SWSoc) was formed on 19 January 2015; the Society presents the Report of the Management Committee and its Unaudited Financial Statements for its sixth period of account.

The Society is a public benefit entity (PBE), formed as an unincorporated members' organisation.

AIM OF THE SOCIETY

To build a stronger community and to protect the local character and green spaces, making South Woodford an even better place to live, learn, work and visit.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIETY

The objectives of the Society are:

- to promote membership to all eligible individuals within the defined area;
- to represent and promote the interests and rights of residents and businesses;
- to ensure that all eligible individuals are consulted and informed regularly and to encourage active engagement;
- to assist and promote social activities for recreation and enjoyment, and to encourage a community spirit and sense of responsibility;
- to be non-party political; and
- to create a Neighbourhood Plan for a specified area within the E18 postcode area.

ACHIEVEMENTS

How quickly the year has rolled around again! It is great to see you all here in person once again. Every year brings new projects, with great little wins along the way and it certainly was another busy and successful year for us. We were a winner of Redbridge Mayor's Community Awards 2023.

We have maintained our focus on creating the South Woodford Neighbourhood Plan (SWNP) and continue to participate in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) funded initiative - Design Code Pathfinder programme. We have carried out a lot of engagement within the community, raising our profile and maintaining our strong collaboration with London Borough of Redbridge (LBR). Thanks to our committed team members who give so generously of their time, we have had a very successful year.

The South Woodford Business Forum (SWBF) held regular meetings and was very supportive of initiatives within South Woodford. A record number of businesses attended our inaugural networking event held at Luna Café and the next meeting will be held at the local Starbucks. We are continuing to work to raise the profile of the monthly South Woodford community market. The organisers are invested in improving the variety of stalls and encouraging community participation as well as young entrepreneurs.

Our litter picks are a regular occurrence every 4-6 weeks and the dates are posted on the website and on social media. The next one is on 17th March. We can never have too many volunteers so do please spread the word. Thanks to Louise Burgess and Sue Brown for organising these.

The Christmas light switching on event was hugely popular and successful. We had our Mayor, Cllr Jyotsna Islam, in attendance, the Redbridge Music Lounge, the young choir from Oakdale Junior School, Brook Brass and Woodford Panto. Stow Brothers supported us both financially and by providing extra support on the night. Father Christmas was kept very, very busy! Thanks to Elaine and Rena, our stalwart Committee Members Alice, Andy, Louise, Pearl, Sue and Tricia, and Pank, Stewart, Su, Stow Brothers, Poppy, Richard, Andy and Clive for making this the success that it was.

Green space regeneration continues unabated. In 2022, we adopted "Eastwood Green" - the small area opposite the roundabout on George Lane. Louise Burgess and Stephanie Derby have spearheaded the work that has been carried out with the help of volunteers. We have used a form of "no dig" gardening, installed benches and more recently some flagstones, donated by Stewart & Sue Brown, which has allowed for a solid surface in front of the benches. It is all starting to look very healthy and it is so lovely to see the crocuses that were planted popping up again this year!

The orchard is maturing nicely. We recently held a pruning day when all the fruit trees were pruned. We have added some raspberry bushes and transplanted the fig tree. It all looks quite healthy and we are continuing to seek funding to allow us to really invigorate this space and make it even more welcoming. It's lovely to see more people using the space, although dog waste is becoming a problem.

We continue to sit on the Churchfields and South Woodford Ward Panels, who meet with the Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhoods Teams and Neighbourhood Watches, and continue to collaborate with LBR on various initiatives.

FUNDING

We have applied to and receive funding from the following organisations:

1. Unfortunately, our funding from the Co-op has now ended. We did however receive £3010.38 during the year. We hope to be successful when we apply again towards the end of this year.
2. We are registered as a beneficiary of the Redbridge Local Lottery and we regularly receive approximately £30.00 a month which equated to £378.50 for the year.

Special vote of thanks to the following for their donations.

Stow Bros	£460
Improve Your Smile	£280
Filmfixer	£250
EduFocus (Evolve)	£680
Oakmont Social Education	£100
Richard Harman Property	£50
Market Churros Stall	£20
Andrew Popperwell	£20

A huge thanks to Lee Marquis of the South Woodford Village Gazette for his amazing support for the Society throughout the year.

We have received further funding from Locality, allowing us to continue work on the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). We continue to work with and be supported by DLUHC as we finalise our draft Design Code (DC) in a digital format.

We are happy to explore all the work on the NP and DC in greater detail after the AGM, if anyone would like to know more about what we're doing.

2023 has been an incredibly busy and successful year for us. Thank you all for your assistance and support in various ways, it has been invaluable.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Looking forward, we will continue to develop and consolidate our relationships with our local councillors, Redbridge Council and the media, and will continue to actively campaign to boost membership of the Society to ensure that we accurately represent the views and opinions of local residents and businesses.

Our main focus once again will be the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) as we start to finalise work on this in readiness for the end of summer 2024. Alongside that, sits our work to regreen South Woodford and to improve the general look and feel of our area. All of this will be supported by a new and improved website, that will allow us to amalgamate all the various strands of the Society and showcase both the NP and DC.

Collaboration with other local groups has included the very successful Repair Café, held in the St Mary's Church. This is a great initiative which usually tends to be oversubscribed and this will now be a regular occurrence. We are also very happy to collaborate with the South Woodford Gardeners who do a fantastic job of maintaining the central flower beds in George Lane, as well as the beds in front of Regency Court and on the A406 bridge.

We are finally making progress on our initiative for a mural to be created in Sainsburys “cloisters” so that will be happening soon as part of the London Mural Festival in September, subject to various permissions.

As always, there is a tremendous amount of work to be done and I would encourage you all to reach out to us and get involved in any way that you can however small; every little bit makes a difference!

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

The total number of members is 729, of which 618 are active members. We have certainly seen a healthy increase in the number of members which is hugely encouraging.

INVESTMENT POLICY

The Society has minimal reserves and these are held in a non-interest bearing community bank account.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The following members served on the management committee for the entire accounting period unless otherwise stated:

Pearl Arbenser-Simmonds (Co-Chair)
Louise Burgess (Co-Chair)
Rena Pathak (Vice Chair)
Elaine Atkins (Secretary)
Patricia Darvell (Vice Secretary)
Faizul Hoque (Accountant) – stepped down during 2023
Andy Pike (Treasurer)
Alice Bound
Sue Brown
Suzanne Nolan

Committee Members were appointed by the Management Committee on the inception of the Society, and the Committee Members can appoint members of the Society to fulfil casual vacancies.

Committee Members serve until the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) where if they so wish they can put themselves forward for re-election.

The Report of the Management Committee was approved by the Management Committee on 27 February 2024. Signed on behalf of the Committee by Pearl Arbenser-Simmonds (Co-Chair).



Pearl Arbenser-Simmonds

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	December 2023	December 2022
Tangible Fixed Assets	0	0
Stock	£188	£34
Bank and Cash	£13,850	£15,245
Creditors (Committee Member's Expenses)	0	-£776
Net Assets	£14,038	£14,504
Unrestricted Reserves	£14,038	£14,504

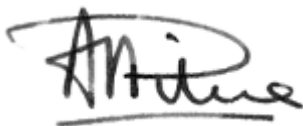
Income and Expenditure

12 Months to 31 December 2023
(Compared to 18 months to 31 December 2022)

	12m to Dec 2023	18m to Dec 2022
INCOME		
Income from Social Events	£1,285	0
Income from Project Funding	£3,011	£6,357
Donations	£1,860	£8,525
Redbridge Lottery	£378	£785
TOTAL INCOME	£6,534	£15,667
EXPENDITURE		
Expenditure on community events	£2,849	£1,942
Regreening projects	£3,330	£3,535
SW Business Forum	£25	£62
Neighbourhood Plan	0	£3,960
Subscriptions and Insurance	£170	£260
Printing, Postage, Stationery and advertising	£473	0
Depreciation	0	£30
Sundry expenses	0	£413
IT Expenses (Web & MailChimp)	£267	0
Bank Charges	0	£10
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£7,114	£10,212
(DEFICIT) / SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD	(£580)	£5,456

These financial statements were prepared by Andy Pike (Treasurer) and reviewed by Faizul Hoque (Accountant) prior to approval by the Management Committee on 13 February 2024.

Signed on behalf of the Committee by Andy Pike (Treasurer).



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Basis of Preparation

These financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention.

2. Income Tax

Being a members' organisation established as a public benefit entity, the Society is exempt from income tax with the exception of any interest earned on bank deposits.

3. Incoming Resources

Donations are recognised on receipt. The value of time given by volunteers is not valued in the financial statements, however, where goods and services are received without charge these are recognised at an estimate of their fair value as intangible income.

4. Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis, except expenses due to Committee Members are only recognised once an expense claim has been submitted and approved.