

The Fragile X Society AGM 2022

Treasurer's Report

Introduction

I am pleased to present my Treasurer's report to the 2022 AGM.

The purpose of this report is to provide supplementary notes to the Society's accounts for year ended 28 February 2022, to the AGM.

I have been Treasurer of the Society since January 2020, and since November 2020 I have also acted as bookkeeper with responsibility for maintaining the Society's prime financial records.

Covid

The charity sector continued to be affected by Covid throughout the year under review. However, unlike the previous year when fundraising activities almost ceased, the reduction in infections over the summer and early autumn of 2021, allowed some fundraising to take place. I am therefore pleased to report an increase in third party fundraising.

Hopefully, infection levels will continue to decline, and fundraising activities will increase further.

On the downside, during the year to February 2021, there was a significant increase in the grants available to support charities during the pandemic. During the year under review however, the number of grants declined as did our grant income. This decline is likely to continue.

Accounts

The Society's income sources can be categorised as:

- Donations
- Legacies and "in memoriam" donations
- Grants
- Other smaller sources of income such as sale of Christmas cards, sale of merchandise and training material, and 100 club subscriptions.

Within donations, there are several sub-categories such as regular donations, one-off donations, third party fundraising and gift aid tax.

From 01 March 2021, the Society used new accounting software for recording all financial transactions. This is both far more effective and cheaper than the previous product, and we are now recording transactions in greater detail. Although this will help in producing future reports, it has made producing detailed comparisons between the current and previous year, more problematic. Any comparisons made are therefore in more general terms.

Donations: I am pleased to report that donations received increased from £62,999 to £87,194, and a breakdown is as follows:

Donations etc	Years ended	
	28-Feb-21	28-Feb-22
Donations	£32,200	£45,440
Regular Giving	£20,931	£28,899
Tax from Covenants and Gift Aid	£7,149	£12,505
Gift Aid donations	£2,370	£350
Family Events	£349	£0
Totals	£62,999	£87,194

The number and amount of one-off donations declined, however due to separate donations of £10,000 and £6,000, and an increase in third party fundraising of £13,098, total donations increased by £24,195.

We are grateful to our supporters for donations received during the year.

Legacies and “in memoriam” donations: The Society received two legacies of £74,646 and £7,636 during the year which helped the financial outcome for the year. In the previous year, we received just £1,330 which demonstrates how difficult it is to budget for this category of income.

With regards to in memoriam donations, we received £4,305, which is a slight increase over the 2021 figure of £3,678.

Grants: In 2021 we received grants of £74,564 (including a £9,034 restricted grant for work in Northern Ireland), which was a significant help in supporting the Society’s finances during the first period of the pandemic. During the financial year under review, we received £24,421 which is a significant decrease. The reasons for this decline are:

- Less grants were available, and
- Due to the legacies received, our reserves reached such a level that we were no longer eligible to apply for many of the grants available.

Due to specific targeted expenditure over the coming year, those reserves will decline. Further, we will conduct a review of our reserves policy to try and restore our eligibility to apply for the available grants.

Other income: This was broadly in line with last year’s figures.

Total income: In the year to 28 February 2022, the Society received income of £205,521 which compared to £148,121 in the previous year. Although, this is a pleasing outcome, without the legacies, our income would have been £123,239, and our reserves would have consequently been far less healthy.

Expenditure: One of the difficulties of financial planning for a charity is forecasting income. Although we can publicise the Society and make it as easy as possible to make donations, we are reliant on the generosity of third parties either for donations or legacies. Such income is difficult to predict.

Forecasting and planning our expenditure, is however much easier. There will be unforeseen expenditure (which is why reserves are necessary), however much of our expenditure can be anticipated, at the start of the year.

The original 2022 budget anticipated expenditure of £120,343. In February 2021, that is after the 2022 budget had been agreed, we received a grant from the Northern Ireland lottery for £9,034, with the proviso that the funds be spent on Fragile X project work in Northern Ireland. Hence, the £4,034 spent on the project was not anticipated when the budget was set, so can be excluded from the schedule of 2022 expenditure for the purposes of comparing the actual expenditure with that planned in the budget.

Expenditure for the year totalled £127,654, including £4,034 spent in Northern Ireland. Excluding this £4,034 gives £123,620, hence the difference between the budget and actual expenditure was £3,277 or 2.7% of the budget.

Much of this difference is due to the office move in December 2021, which was also not anticipated at the start of the year. Given that the Society's staff had endured for many years, working in the old offices in Rood End House, and which were not fit for purpose, an opportunity to take on a lease in the neighbouring property, was not to be missed. Nearly 6 months on, the move has been a success, especially with the staff, and the expenditure incurred on moving costs and a slightly higher rent, is considered to be well spent.

Otherwise, expenditure was in line with the budget for the year.

Outcome: I am pleased to report that the Society achieved a surplus of £77,867 (after including the £4,091 expenditure in Northern Ireland).

Reserves at the year end were £188,293, which consists of funds in our bank accounts totalling £190,108 less nominal balance sheet items.

This represents a significant improvement in the financial health of the Society over the previous year, though as pointed out previously, without the two legacies totalling £82,282, this conclusion to the report would have been far more pessimistic.

Finally, a summary of the Society's accounts over the last 6 years, is at Appendix A

Period from 01 March 2022

The main concern at present, is the worrying rise in the rate of inflation.

The Society is seeing an increase in its costs without any guarantee of corresponding increases in income. Although we hope that our income will rise, we are mindful that the increases in food and energy costs may well limit the amount of additional help, our supporters can offer.

Although, we will continue to consider alternative sources of funding, there is likely to be increasing competition for diminishing resources.

Regarding our activities, we clearly want to use the legacies as effectively as possible. The 2022/2023 budget therefore allows for part of the surplus to be spent on ongoing expenses, but also it includes a number of one-off items of expenditure to improve the Society's capabilities without committing ourselves to ongoing expenditure that might not be sustainable in the long term.

These include:

- A cost of living pay rise for staff – implemented in March 2022.
- Employing a part time administration assistant.
- Entering into an agreement with a PHD student to review and update the Society's library of information.
- Associated with this, updating the Society's library of leaflets
- Funding the family event at Thomley in June 2022.
- Issuing printed newsletters to our members.
- Funding webinars
- Staff training

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Eccleshall".

Tim Eccleshall
Treasurer

29 May 2022

Appendix A

Fragile X Society account summaries

Note: ** Includes staff salaries, and employer's NIC and payment contributions

Year ended	28/02/2022	28/02/2021	29/02/2020	28/02/2019	28/02/2018	28/02/2017
Income						
Donations & legacies - unrestricted	198,202	133,189	90,690	110,817	58,328	190,236
Donations & legacies - restricted	0	9,034		11,000	53,796	20,833
DVD sales	0	0	0	0	0	55
Conferences	0	0	1,834	2,049	2,280	2,441
Other	0	0	0	906		
Other income	2,912	3,770	17,077	49,427	40,083	60,040
Other trading	4,394	2,064	3,978	4,098	2,922	2,626
Investments	13	64	131	84	51	199
Total	205,521	148,121	113,710	178,381	157,460	276,430
Expenditure						
Fund raising	10,381	8,620	11,936	39,433	19,229	16,582
Conferences	0	518	4,823	8,244	1,825	18,872
Newsletters	0	0	0	13,051	15,838	9,909
Charitable activities	113,182	110,795	103,897	150,314	175,987	150,479
Other		908	2,855	1,463	1,840	5,239
Total	123,563	120,841	123,511	212,505	214,719	201,081
N. Ireland grant received 2021	-4,091					
Net income / (expenditure)	77,867	27,280	-9,801	-34,124	-57,259	75,349
Total funds brought forward	110,426	83,146	92,947	127,071	184,330	108,981
Total funds carried forward	188,293	110,426	83,146	92,947	127,071	184,330

Note: The Society received a restricted grant for project work in Northern Ireland in 2021.

This was not classed as income at the time of receipt.

During the year to 28/02/22, £4,091 was spent the project and the corresponding income must now be adjusted for in the account.

The balance of the Northern Ireland grant of £4,943, will be carried forward to 2023.