

# Society for the Assistance of Ladies in Reduced Circumstances

Lancaster House, 25 Hornyold Road, Malvern, Worcs. WR14 1QQ.



The Society is based in the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

# ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2010

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

FOR  
2010

The General Election in May 2010 resulted in a change of Government. The previous Labour administration had already announced substantial cuts in public expenditure to reduce the massive deficit in the national finances, but the incoming Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition has made clear its intention to take even firmer action in order to redress the situation more rapidly. It will be 2011 before the effects are felt, but there is no doubt that many of our beneficiaries will be affected. It would seem that the need for benevolent funds is as great as ever.

The Society was founded in 1886 and became a registered charity in 1917. There is a governing body of four trustees, with day to day administration being carried out by a staff of five based in Malvern. Beneficiaries come from throughout the United Kingdom. Our charitable policy is to support women domiciled and habitually resident in the United Kingdom, who are living alone in their own home (either owned or rented) and in genuine need, irrespective of age or social status. We do so by regular monthly grants towards their day-to-day living expenses, or by single grants for specific immediate needs. Support is conditional upon beneficiaries first claiming all state benefits to which they are entitled – it is our role to augment state help, not to replace it.

In 2010 income from our investments continued to be under pressure. Our reserves policy caters for just such an eventuality, and we anticipate that there will be no need for us to reduce our grant making programme in the short term.

The trustees allocated £774,000 for grants to individuals during the year. In order to broaden the scope of the Society's work they again allocated £50,000 for institutional grants to organisations working for the benefit of women in financial need that do not themselves make grants.

As always we lost some regular beneficiaries through changes in their circumstances. We are pleased that we were able to

help them at their time of greatest need, and we send our best wishes to those who have found employment or remarried. During the year 68 women became new regular beneficiaries. The number of women receiving grants towards their general living costs was on average 446 per month (2009: 479). The total value was £668,749 (2009: £690,259). Grants totalling £49,700 (2009: £46,600) were made to 4 (2009: 3) other organisations.

One-off grants not exceeding £350 each were made to 203 women (2009: 219) for specific immediate needs, amounting to £54,651 (2009: £58,252). This year these again included grants for single essential items such as a new cooker or washing machine, particularly for women being rehoused after fleeing domestic violence.

I would like to record the gratitude of all of the trustees to the staff for their dedication and the helpful manner in which they have carried out their duties.

In 2002 the trustees at the time concluded that the Society was holding more reserves than was necessary, and that some of these should be used for the benefit of women in need. Since then we have deliberately spent more than our income each year. We will soon reach the point where reserves are down to a prudent level, and we will then need to balance our income and expenditure. We intend carrying out a strategic review during 2011 which will determine the future direction of the Society, ensuring that we continue to carry out our mission in the most effective and efficient way that we can.

Finally, I am grateful to my fellow trustees for their support. They give their services entirely voluntarily, their reward being the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts are appreciated by “our ladies”.

Stan Ginn  
Chairman

## SOCIETY FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF LADIES IN REDUCED CIRCUMSTANCES

### SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 December 2010

<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Voluntary income	59,463	23,259
Investment income	779,916	775,973
<b>Total</b>	<b>839,379</b>	<b>799,232</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		
<b>Cost of Generating Funds</b>		
Costs of generating voluntary income	1,483	2,473
Investment management costs	74,887	62,301
<b>Charitable Activities</b>		
Grants payable to women in financial need	723,400	748,511
Institutional grants for the benefit of women in financial need	49,700	46,600
Support costs	184,007	186,555
<b>Governance Costs</b>	<b>15,105</b>	<b>14,674</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,048,582</b>	<b>1,061,114</b>
<b>NET OUTGOING RESOURCES</b>	<b>(209,203)</b>	<b>(261,882)</b>
<b>Gains/(Losses) on Investment Assets</b>	<b>2,252,888</b>	<b>3,104,094</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>	<b>2,043,685</b>	<b>2,842,212</b>

### BALANCE SHEET

(as at 31 December 2010)

<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Tangible fixed assets	2,241	2,736
Investments	23,985,533	22,064,504
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	51,542	50,831
Investments – short term deposits	498,145	299,230
Cash at bank and in hand	488,932	547,831
<b>Creditors</b>		
Amounts falling due within 1 year	(71,103)	(62,527)
<b>Provisions for Liabilities and Charges</b>		
Underfunding of staff pension scheme	(91,950)	(82,950)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>24,863,340</b>	<b>22,819,655</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>1,040,861</b>	<b>1,209,475</b>
<b>Endowment Funds</b>	<b>23,822,479</b>	<b>21,610,180</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>24,863,340</b>	<b>22,819,655</b>

## **Summary Financial Report**

These summary figures are not the statutory accounts but a summary of information relating to both the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet. They have been extracted from the Society's full financial statements, which are available separately from Lancaster House, 25 Hornyold Road, Malvern, WR14 1QQ.

These summary figures may not contain sufficient information to give a full understanding of the Society's financial affairs. The full financial statements, which were approved by the trustees on 20 April 2011, have been audited by haysmacintyre and their audit opinion on those accounts is unqualified. A copy of the accounts will be submitted to the Charity Commission.

**S D Ginn (Chairman of the Trustees)**  
on behalf of the trustees  
20 April 2011

## **Independent Auditors' Statement to the Trustees of Society for the Assistance of Ladies in Reduced Circumstances**

We have examined the summarised financial statements of Society for the Assistance of Ladies in Reduced Circumstances for the year ended 31 December 2010 set out on page 4.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements and summarised annual report in accordance with the applicable United Kingdom law and the recommendations of the charities SORP.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and Trustees' Annual Report.

We also read the other information contained in the summarised annual report and consider the implications of our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 issued by the Auditing Practices Board.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of Society for the Assistance of Ladies in Reduced Circumstances for the year ended 31 December 2010.

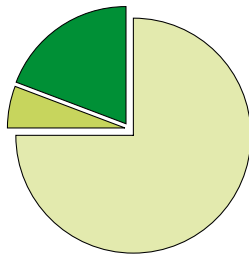
**haysmacintyre**  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors  
Fairfax House, 15 Fulwood Place, London, WC1V 6AY  
20 April 2011

# GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

FOR 2010

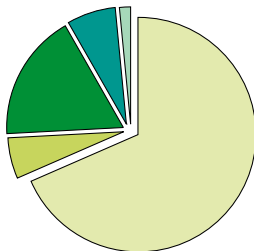
Although the Society's expenditure again exceeded its income during 2010 this was by design and it remains very sound financially. It derives most of its income from investments. The investment policy is to be even-handed between present and future beneficiaries, generating sufficient income to meet existing needs whilst investing for capital growth, in order to maintain real value for the longer term and to provide a rising income from a sound investment base.

Day to day management of the Society's investments is delegated to Rensburg Sheppards Investment Management Limited. Performance of the Endowment Fund portfolio is measured against a bespoke benchmark on a total return basis (before management and other expenses) through capital and income return combined. Although income remained under pressure stock markets continued to make a strong recovery, and this investment portfolio has now regained all of the value lost in 2008. We are however investing for the longer term, and we do not rely on investment gains to finance our operations. The return for the year on the portfolio was 14.9% against a benchmark (including property) of 13.8%. The Unrestricted Fund portfolio comprises a mixture of cash and Common Investment Funds and is being gradually drawn down as expenditure exceeds income. It is measured against a bespoke benchmark on a total return basis. The return for the year was 8.9% against a benchmark of 12.2%.



Where our funds came from

- Investment income
- Donations and legacies
- Reserves



How we spent our money

- Grants payable to individuals
- Support costs
- Governance costs
- Grants payable to organisations
- Costs of generating funds

The Endowment Fund also holds income units in the COIF Charities Investment Fund and the COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund which produced total returns for the year of 12.4% and 11.6% respectively against a benchmark (including property) of 14.4%.

The total funds held by the Society were £24,863,340 of which £23,822,479 were endowed funds representing the long-term capital of the charity, and £1,038,620 were free reserves which may be used for the general purposes of the Society. The trustees have adopted a budget for 2011 which will reduce these reserves. It is their opinion that they should hold sufficient reserves to enable them to continue making grants for three years in the event of unforeseen circumstances reducing budgeted investment income by 25%.

There is no special relationship with any other charity, but there are occasions when the cost of a larger grant is shared with other organisations. In order to avoid duplication of help the Society shares the names of beneficiaries with 6 other charities.

The trustees carried out a full strategic review during 2008 to ensure that the Society continues to fulfil its charitable objectives in the most appropriate way. They concluded that whilst some alternative ways of operating (such as lobbying, or providing advice and support) could be of significant benefit to women in financial need, they were best left to other organisations that have the specialist expertise. For 2011 they have again allocated £50,000 for grants to such institutions.

Our capital has to a large extent been built up over many years through the generosity of people who have left us a donation in their will. Our policy is to encourage people who decide to help us in this way to request that their legacies are added to our endowments. We continued our membership of the "Remember a Charity" campaign, which we joined in 2004. This consortium includes some of the country's largest and best known charities, and using the strapline "Remember a Charity in your Will. Help the work live on ..." aims to highlight the real difference that leaving money to a charity can make. It is hoped that by working together we will increase the total amount left to charities each year, and in particular to those charities which participate.

John Sands  
General Secretary



## Society for the Assistance of Ladies in Reduced Circumstances

Founded by the late Miss Edith Smallwood in 1886  
Registered as a Charity in England & Wales No. 205798

**PATRON:**

**Her Majesty The Queen**

**TRUSTEES:**

**Mr Stan Ginn MA (Cantab), Solicitor (Chairman) Appointed 22 June 1994**

**The Revd. David Gutteridge MSc, BSc, PGCE Appointed 31 August 1999**

**Ms Catherine Connery MA (Oxon) Appointed 18 April 2007**

**Mrs Ruth Christie BA (Hons), PGCE, MInstF Appointed 3 June 2009**

**GENERAL SECRETARY:**

**John Sands MA, ACIB, MCMI**

**BANKERS:**

**Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, Malvern**

**INVESTMENT MANAGERS:**

**Rensburg Sheppards Investment Management Limited, London**

**CCLA Investment Management Limited, London**

**AUDITORS:**

**haysmacintyre, Chartered Accountants, London**

The Society is entirely funded by past  
and present voluntary contributions.

Enquiries are welcomed from those in need of help from  
the Society and those who wish to support its work.

