

# THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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#### **Trustees and Volunteers**

Our Council of management started 2022-23 with four Trustees: Richard Fry as co-opted President together with co-opted Trustees; Jonquil Webber, Cornelius Cavendish and Nick Haywood. Dawn Kirkham, presently residing in Canada, was co-opted onto the Council on 5th January

At the Annual General Meeting on 16th February 2023 Jonquil Webber and Cornelius Cavendish were elected as Trustees and Richard Fry was elected to continue as a Trustee after serving for three years and was also elected as President. Nick Haywood did not wish to be elected as he indicated that he would be resigning as a Trustee in the near future. However, he has volunteered to attend committee meetings as an advisor from time to time. George Mackenzie has also volunteered to attend as an advisor. Dawn Kirkham was unable to be put forward for election due to the timescale but will be offered the position at the next AGM.

We have continued to produce three editions of our magazine Dowsing Today and have been supported by an editorial team consisting of our office staff and other volunteers who collate and proof-read articles for which we are very grateful.

#### **BSD Office**

As a result of necessary cost saving exercises over the last number of years, we only had one member of staff employed at our office in Malvern. However, due to a resignation and subsequent recruitment, we now have two members of staff who work part-time for approximately the equivalent of one full time person. However, the work involved in supporting the Society still exceeds our ability to pay for it and we are most grateful to the volunteers who assist us.

Our website has improved considerably and is much easier to use. Our new office staff help to keep the news current and the content more interesting. Nick Haywood has made a number of technical improvements and continues to help with the maintenance.

#### **Spring Symposium**

Due to continuing problems of Covid-19, which limited the number of venues available at the time, it wasn't until 16th June that we managed to hold it at Coventry University. This was just a one-day event and attracted over 50 delegates. This was the first event that the BSD recorded the speakers in order for those recordings to become available for purchase in the BSD shop. This allows those who could not attend in person to watch the speakers of their choice and will be available later for all on the BSD YouTube Channel.

#### **Annual Conference**

The Conference was held on 10th and 11th September at the Fire Service College, Morton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire. This was a two-day residential event and attracted over 60 delegates per day. Again, the speakers and workshops were recorded to be purchased by those who could not attend in person.

The next stage will be in attempting to 'live stream' the speakers to a wider audience both nationally and internationally. The success in our current recording experience has given us greater confidence that this will be achievable.

#### **Tutor Programme**

The tutor programme continues to grow in strength following the successful trial by Sue Skinner who delivered three 'Foundation in Dowsing' courses at various locations around the country. She proved that the system will work and now other new and former tutors have volunteered to commence the programme. Other Foundation Courses have been undertaken at various locations plus courses in other aspects of dowsing too. This has given more opportunity for new and experienced dowsers to learn and develop their skills whilst generating a funding stream for the Society at the same time.

#### **BSD Zoom Talks**

As we are coming to the end of this financial period, we are, in fact, preparing to commence a series of monthly zoom talks which will be available to everyone in the dowsing community. The talks will be free at present and the speakers will also give their time freely. However, the intention is to attract more focus onto the BSD, increase membership and promote dowsing into the wider community. If successful we can then review the possibilities to monetise this project

# THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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### **In summary**

It has certainly been a relief to see more regular activity coming to fruition both within the Society and amongst local and other dowsing groups around the country. The Symposium and Conference only returned a small margin as, by popular demand, we were tasked to arrange quality venues close to public transport. However, we believe they not only instilled confidence amongst our members that the Society is a viable organisation but also provided a point of contact where delegates could meet up with old friends and make new ones. Our plans for the future are to look for more reasonable venues with associated costs and, together with broadcasting facilities, reach out to all dowsers in the UK and beyond.

With a solid foundation for our new tutor programme, which is bound to attract more tutors and students, we know that future is bright for the greater dowsing community in general and for the BSD in particular.

Finally, we must say how grateful we are to those members who have stuck with the Society through thick and thin. We do put a lot of effort into running the organisation but your loyalty makes it all worthwhile.

Mr Richard Fry  
**President**

Date: 28/12/2023

# THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

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The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charitable company's memorandum and articles of association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) 1A (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1st January 2019).

#### **Introduction**

British Dowsers is the working name of The British Society of Dowsers. Founded in 1933 it is a national charity offering education and training support to members and non-members through courses, meetings and events and through its annual national conference. In addition, British Dowsers acts as the voice for Dowsing in both the UK and beyond.

#### **Objectives and activities**

The objects of the charity are to encourage and support the study and practice of dowsing and its application in every field of human interest; to maintain a public dowsing information service, including a Register of Dowsing Practitioners and a Register of Dowsing Tutors; and to relieve communities, particularly those in less well developed countries, who are suffering hardship by reason of their economic and social circumstances, especially in relation to water supplies.

#### **Public Benefit Statement**

The charity's Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

#### **Grantmaking**

Previously, the charity had a small research fund available for grant making. As of April 2016 the Charity Commission gave consent to change the objects of the fund and the balance was transferred to the Unrestricted fund.

#### **Achievements and performance**

The objectives of the charity have been achieved through a number of activities which can be summarised as follows:

#### **Communications**

- Publication of our magazine, 'Dowsing Today'. Distributed three times per year to members and other organisations.
- Regular e-newsletters each year.
- Regular updates of our social media platform.
- On-going development of our website.
- Regular updates from our President/Trustees to members.
- Liaising with Affiliated Local Groups
- Providing personal advice and assistance to members and the public on all matters relating to dowsing

# THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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#### Education and Training

- Regular review of our course programme incorporating a range of core curriculum courses. Our plans include making these available online for our members and others further afield.
- Holding an annual conference in which we plan to provide delegates with a broad spectrum of topics delivered by qualified speakers. In 2022 the conference in September was attended by over 60 delegates per day.
- Holding an annual symposium. Again, we plan to provide a broad spectrum of topics. The event in June attracted over 50 delegates.
- Selling educational books and dowsing equipment from our shop and online.
- Encouraging independent professional dowsers to exhibit and retail their products at conferences etc.
- Publicising and supplying dowsing services to the general public via the media and the Dowsing Information Service

#### Other activities

- Supporting members on the Professional Register. Our plans include reviewing their website page to enhance their profile.
- Engaging with trainers to deliver the Society's courses and workshops and encouraging them to maintain a high standard of competence. This will assist in our plans to deliver courses online.
- Supporting International dowsing events. We plan to monitor the events of dowsing society's in other countries and join with them via the internet. This will not only support them but enhance the profile of our own Society.
- Raising and distributing funds to assist with the provision of natural water supplies in developing countries

#### Financial review

The total amount of reserves held at the year end amounted to £47,209 (2022 £55,329) of which all related to unrestricted reserves, the charity did not hold any restricted funds as at the year end.

After making allowances for tangible fixed assets the free reserves of the charity amounted to £46,011 (2022 £53,572). This includes £52,343 (2022 £54,336) investment funds which are convertible at short notice if required.

The charity needs reserves invested at current levels, as represented by the unrestricted fund, and these need to be invested to generate income to supplement that from subscriptions, donations and activities in order to meet its objectives.

#### Principal funding sources

The charity is funded primarily through members' subscriptions, fees for meetings and conferences and the sale of educational books and equipment.

#### Investment policy and objectives

The Council of the charity invests in common investment funds with the aim of maintaining a balance between income and capital growth and to ensure secure management of the charity's assets. There are no restrictions on either the investment powers of the Council or the way in which the charity operates, except that they must be in furtherance of the charity's objectives and in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

#### Risk assessment

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed. The risk assessment has been reviewed and updated where appropriate and is used as a guide for Council to manage these risks.

#### Structure, governance and management

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

## THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS

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### TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT) (CONTINUED)

#### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023*

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

Mr R Fry	(President)
Mr C Cavendish	(Appointed 15/9/21, Resigned 1/7/23)
Dr N Haywood	(Appointed 7/1/22, Resigned 1/7/23)
Mrs J Webber	(Appointed 15/9/21)
Mrs D Kirkham	(Appointed 5/1/23)

#### **Recruitment and appointment of members of the Council of Management**

The directors of the company are also charity Trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as the Council of Management. Under the terms of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, Council members are required to be members of BSD and elected by members. The President is elected by members. The membership is invited to nominate candidates for any vacancies on the Council of Management. A range of relevant skills is represented on the Council but in the event of any perceived gaps in skills the Articles provide for co-option by Council to fill vacancies. New Trustees take part in an induction programme, in line with guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

#### **Organisational Structure**

The Council meets regularly to review finances and investments and decide matters of policy. An Office Manager is appointed by the Council to run the day-to-day operations of the Society who is supported as required by additional members of staff. The remuneration of management is set by the Trustees.

#### **Related parties**

There are no related parties.

The Trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mr Richard Fry  
**President**

Date: 28/12/2023