

Gay Outdoor Club Limited Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the Year End 31st December 2024

Gay Outdoor Club Limited

Company registration number 8020133 Charity registration number 1158873

Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year Ended 31st December 2024

Trustees' Report:

Reference and administration details

The Gay Outdoor Club Limited is a company limited by guarantee. It is known as the Gay Outdoor Club, frequently abbreviated to GOC.

Company registration number: 08020133

Charity registration number: 1158873

Registered office: 27 Old Gloucester Street, London, WC1N 3AX

The following persons served as Trustees during the reporting period, they served the entire year except where noted:

Mr J K Cornwell	Chair	
Mr R Davies	Secretary	Appointed: 17 th October 2024
Mr I M Widdowson	Treasurer	Appointed: 6 th April 2024
Mr M Gilbraith		
Mr E Voelcker		
Miss A Evans		
Mr K H Chris Ng		Appointed: 6 th April 2024
Ms G Giuffre		
Mr R G Smith		Appointed: 6 th April 2024

Resignations:

Mr A Barr 17th October 2024
Mr R Sheldon 27th July 2024
Mr K German 3rd January 2024
Mr P Blackburn 27th July 2024

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc, Tonbridge, Kent; The Bank of Scotland, Dava, Moray
Accountants: Crest Accounting Ltd, 49 Verdayne Avenue, Shirley, Croydon, CR0 8TW

Structure, governance and management:

The Gay Outdoor Club existed as an unincorporated club from 1974. On the 4th April 2012 it was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee and on the 16th October 2014, it was registered as a charity.

The charity is governed by the **Articles of Association**. These were last amended in 2023, with approval from the membership, to ensure that the club fulfilled its diversity and inclusive policy by welcoming **everyone in the LGBTQI+ community**.

The Gay Outdoor Club in 2024 saw changes at board level with several trustee's stepping down. However, all positions have been filled and additional committee members appointed.

All the **Activities** of the club are organised by members on a voluntary basis without payment. There are 33 local groups covering every part of England, Wales and Scotland, and ten specialists groups. During 2023, two new specialist groups were established: History & Culture, and Gardens.

In 2024 the club celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a variety of events, which included a member who walked from John o'Groats to Lands End.

Each summer the club holds an **Annual Outdoor Gathering** where members come together over a weekend. In 2024 the event was held in Northampton University. As always, it was well supported and gave our members a chance to catch up with old friends and to make new ones.

Financial Review:

Taking into account that the club does not experience significant periods of negative cash flow and that income is reasonably predictable, the club's reserves policy aims to retain reserves equal to between nine and twelve months of total membership income turnover.

This is partially as the largest financial event that the club organises is the Annual Outdoor Gathering, where up to nearly 50% of the cost can be incurred before income is received.

However, as the reserves have built up above this level the club is continuing to reduce the balance. This is ongoing and includes providing diversity and inclusion training, marketing initiatives and the establishing of an "access" hardship fund

The Charity has no restricted funds and does not act as a custodian or trustee for others.

Public benefit statement:

The charity 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 or duties.

Objectives and activities:

The objects of the company are:

To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of any individuals who have need of such facilities especially, but not exclusively, everyone in the LGBTQI+ community with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Achievements and performance:

Gay Outdoor Club celebrated its **50th Anniversary** year with a series of events held across the country.

There was a solo effort from a member who walked from John o'Groats to Lands End.

Local Groups staged a variety of events which ranged from tea parties, climbing highest points in their area, river cruises and social dinners.

Central London, where the club was formed in 1974, held a special weekend with over 50 members walking in the Saturday – Pride Day Parade, followed by on the Sunday a walk through Soho to commemorate the exact place the club's first meeting took place.

Our archivist put on an excellent exhibition at the Club's **Annual Outdoor Gathering** which was held in Northampton. Members were encouraged to bring memorabilia and reminisce about past events.

Membership grew, during 2024, by 25% from 1857 to 2231. This was mainly achieved by a change in advertising where the club used social media.

Activities: The club's main activity is walking. Local Groups have a Coordinator who plans a programme of events during the year. These include events relating to our Specialist subjects which are proving increasingly popular. There were several weekends away organised and a continuation of our social meet-up sessions.

Inclusive and diverse: The club continues to embrace and welcome all members of the LGBTQI+ community and is working diligently to ensure that our existing membership is friendly and welcoming.

