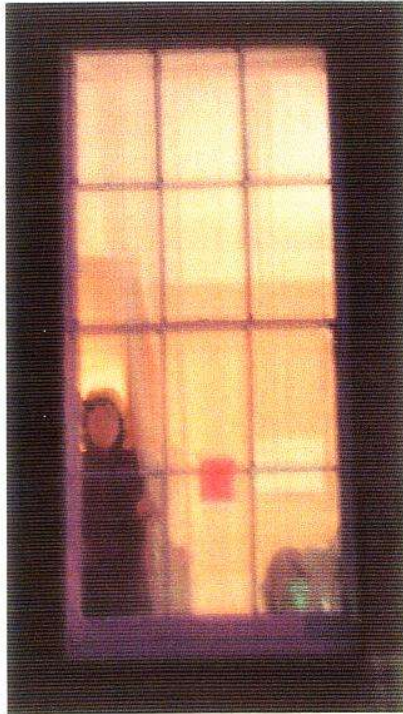


SAMARITANS

Edinburgh and the Lothians Branch



"Always there"

ANNUAL REPORT 2002

SAMARITANS

THE MISSION

Samaritans is available 24 hours a day to provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those which may lead to suicide.

THE VISION

Samaritans' vision is for a society in which:

- Fewer people die by suicide
- People are able to explore their feelings
- People are able to acknowledge and respect the feelings of others

THE VALUES

Samaritans' values are based on these beliefs:

- The importance of having the opportunity to explore difficult feelings
- That being listened to, in confidence, and accepted without prejudice, can alleviate despair and suicidal feelings
- That everyone has the right to make fundamental decisions about their own life, including the decision to die by suicide.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2002 saw the new Samaritans emerge blinking into the spotlight. So often heard but not seen Samaritans have drawn back the curtains to reveal their new perhaps true colours. The future's bright the future's not orange it's green. Gone is the orange and black logo with its sometimes bleak associations and in its place shades of green with its hints of life and growth, a body alive to the possibility of renewal.

Samaritans have always been about life and about life anew. But all too often we are defined by the reasons people come to us and especially by suicide. Emotional pain in all its forms is what we deal with but it does not explain what we do. Lives that can sometimes turn viciously upon themselves need our compassion but also the power to believe in themselves, the power to restore their own emotional health. Our purpose is to help people to help themselves by travelling with them to another place where they may again find purpose, reason and hope.

The Scottish Executive's national plan to reduce suicide and self-harm in Scotland by 20% over the next ten years is laudable and Samaritans by the nature of what we do can play a large part in achieving it. But we can do it all the better by recognising that the initiative rests with us to reach the people who may be most at risk.

In Edinburgh we have seen much progress. We have continued to strengthen our links with other mental health charities and in partnership with them have sponsored major events aimed at raising awareness of suicide and self-harm among young people. From these events new initiatives are planned including a pilot scheme with A&E Department at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Alongside that we continue with an extensive programme of talks in schools, and active Listener scheme in Edinburgh prison, maintain our links with University Nightline and organise many Friends and publicity events.

All of which is on top of the core work of Samaritans in Edinburgh that never stops day or night. Last year we spoke to more than 22,000 people on the phone, saw 400 visitors in the Centre and responded to nearly 2000 emails. It is a major public service provided by a volunteer force of about 130 men and women of all ages and backgrounds.

I am indebted to the many Trusts, businesses and individuals that year after year provide us with the funds to maintain our service and to undertake the initiatives I have described. An enormous effort is going into our Outreach programme in an attempt to reach those who are vulnerable and to support the Scottish Executive's national plan on suicide and self-harm. More than ever we need financial support.

I would like finally to thank our volunteers without whom none of it would be possible. In this my last year as Chairman their commitment and dedication have been an inspiration to me.

Norman Craig
Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income during the year was much lower than in 2001. As a result, the accounts show a deficit of £10,639, after deducting the expenses of running the Branch, which were approximately the same as in the previous year. The decline in our bank balances, which is the most meaningful measure of our finances, was £4,229, compared with an increase of £13,637 in 2001.

Our income from donations in 2002 included a legacy of £10,000 from a past secretary of the Branch, without which it would have more than halved when compared with the 2001 figure. If it does not increase substantially in the current year, next year's deficit will be much higher.

This is still not a matter for great concern due to the healthy state of our bank balance, however we do have the long-term aim of achieving breakeven in our accounts, so that we can maintain sufficient reserves to finance future projects such as outreach schemes, publicity, etc. To this end, a fund raising committee, chaired initially by Derek, has been formed with the target of raising an additional £20,000 annually from companies and trusts. If successful, this would more than make up the shortfall we have experienced in our income in 2002.

All this doesn't mean that we are not extremely appreciative of all those Samaritan volunteers who have contributed to our funds. Please continue to rent videos, fill up the bottle in the duty room, do can collections at work, etc. All these efforts contribute to the total and are most welcome.

Ann Curtis and the Friends Committee, too, have continued to work tirelessly on our behalf and have raised over £4,500, an increase of nearly £1,000. This has come from a whole host of activities, and the Friends, like the Branch itself, are always in need of additional volunteers. So please get in touch with Ann, Derek or myself, if you would like to help or know of someone who would be willing to join the group.

The work of the Friends produces a substantial proportion of our funding and special thanks are due to them and to all those Branch members who have assisted in their work and supported their various events.

For my own part, I am, as always, extremely grateful for all the support and assistance I have received, in particular from Norman, John and Jenny.

Kerr Baillie
Honorary Treasurer

**THE SAMARITANS
EDINBURGH AND THE LOTHIAN BRANCH**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2002**

Income	£	2002 £	2001 £
Donations		30,274	47,824
Deeds of Covenant and Gift Aid (Gross)		667	833
Interest Received (Gross)		2,807	4,466
Grants		3,163	3,163
Friends of the Samaritans		4,573	3,681
Rent Received		570	400
Miscellaneous		53	183
		<u>42,107</u>	<u>60,550</u>
 Expenditure			
Telephone	4,585		5,420
E-Mail Costs	996		417
Stationery and Postage	2,860		3,083
Heating and Lighting	2,280		2,291
Repairs and Renewals	5,142		5,526
Wages	5,985		6,107
Housekeeping	3,374		3,796
Publicity and Advertising	4,586		4,338
Training and Travelling	7,227		5,229
HQ Levy	4,405		6,856
Rates and Insurance	5,288		4,940
Audit Fee	675		646
Miscellaneous	50		30
Depreciation	5,293		5,632
		<u>52,746</u>	<u>54,310</u>
 (Deficit)/Surplus for the Year		(10,639)	6,239
Transferred from Contingency Fund		-	-
 Leaving to be transferred (from)/to General Reserve		<u>(10,639)</u>	<u>6,239</u>

STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2002

	£	2002 £	2001 £
Fixed Assets			
Property at Cost, less depreciation		<u>248,774</u>	<u>254,067</u>
Current Assets			
Prepayments and Accrued Income		1,562	2,777
Cash at Bank		127,074	131,303
		<u>128,636</u>	<u>134,080</u>
Creditors			
Amounts Falling Due Within One Year		8,220	8,318
		<u>120,416</u>	<u>125,762</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>369,190</u>	<u>379,829</u>
Reserves			
Contingency Reserve as at 1st January 2002	62,692		
Transferred during the Year	<u>-</u>	62,692	62,692
General Reserve as at 1st January 2002	317,137		
Deficit, after transfer from Contingency Reserve	<u>(10,639)</u>	306,498	317,137
		<u>369,190</u>	<u>379,829</u>

These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Branch. For further information the full annual accounts should be consulted. The full financial statements were approved by the Trustees of the Branch on 10th March 2003 and an unqualified report given by the auditors. Copies of the full financial statements can be obtained by writing to the Trustees.

STATEMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE SAMARITANS - EDINBURGH AND LOTHIAN BRANCH

We have examined the summarised financial statements of the Samaritans - Edinburgh and Lothian Branch for the year ended 31 December 2002.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with 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' report. We also read the other information contained in the summarised annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 'The Auditors' Statement on the Summary Financial Statement' issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom.

Opinion

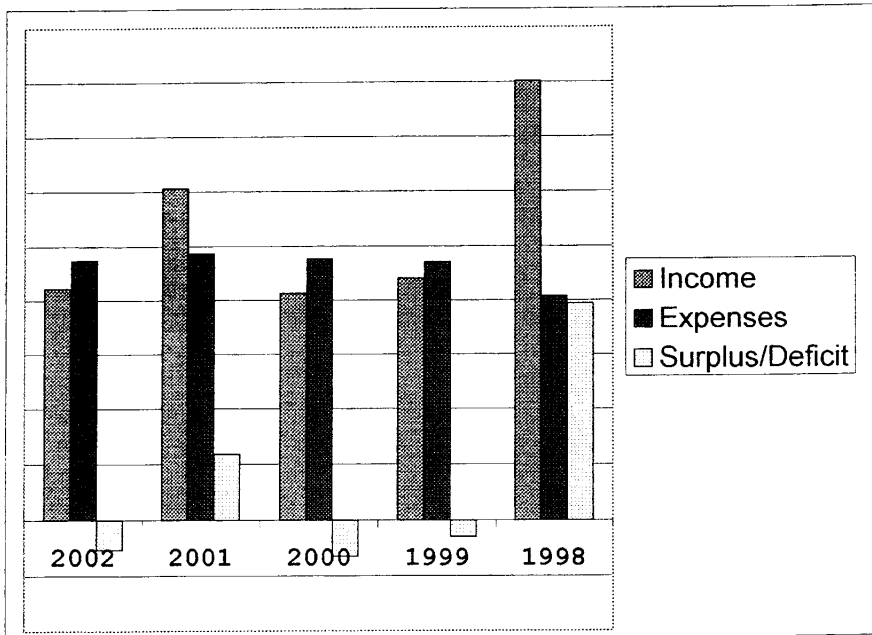
In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and trustees' report of the Samaritans - Edinburgh and Lothian Branch for the year ended 31 December 2002.

**GRANT THORNTON
REGISTERED AUDITORS
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

Edinburgh
13 March 2003

**EDINBURGH AND LOTHIAN SAMARITANS
FIVE YEAR RECORD**

	2002 £	2001 £	2000 £	1999 £	1998 £
Income	42,107	60,550	41,240	44,063	80,157
Expenditure					
Telephone	4,585	5,420	4,511	4,548	4,264
E-Mail Costs	996	417	338	246	250
Stationery and Postage	2,860	3,083	3,222	2,627	2,667
Heating and Lighting	2,280	2,291	2,160	2,511	2,340
Repairs and Renewals	5,142	5,526	3,450	10,562	5,033
Wages	5,985	6,107	11,759	5,407	5,289
Housekeeping	3,374	3,796	3,626	3,748	3,383
Publicity and Advertising	4,586	4,338	2,814	4,248	1,941
Training and Travelling	7,227	5,229	4,706	3,598	3,324
HQ Levy	4,405	6,856	4,944	5,562	8,656
Rates and Insurance	5,288	4,940	5,485	3,287	3,537
Audit Fee	675	646	470	705	-
Miscellaneous	50	30	195	-	60
	47,453	48,679	47,680	47,049	40,744
Cash Surplus/(Deficit) before adjusting for Depreciation	(5,346)	11,871	(6,440)	(2,986)	39,413



THE FRIENDS' REPORT

The Friends have had another successful year. At the AGM I agreed to stay on as Leader and we now have Sheila as our deputy Leader. Sheila has been excellent at generating support for our raffles and has arranged some valuable auctions with a major Insurance Company.

All the Friends work hard on behalf of the Branch and this seems a fitting place to acknowledge their work. We recognise that the main work of Samaritans is to look after our Callers needs but we hope too that listening volunteers will attend Friends events when time permits. Their support is always greatly appreciated.

The events we have held in the past year have been enjoyable and added to the funds substantially. They included a Jazz Evening, a garden party, stalls at the Meadows Festival and the Grasmart Fayre as well as a very enjoyable evening at the ceilidh in November. We had an unexpected bonus in December when we were allowed to have a collection inside the Kings Theatre. In just a matter of minutes we collected £366.

The 50th anniversary of the Samaritans is starting in November this year and continuing until December next year. With this in mind, the Friends and the new Branch fundraising group have joined forces to organise a Ball at the Conference Centre on 5th December 2003. Keep an eye out for further details.

Because of the Ball we have decided to move the date of our next ceilidh forward to 2004. Next year is leap year and we have booked St. Peter's again for a Grand Valentine's Ceilidh on 14th February 2004. Also next year we are organising a concert at the Brunton Theatre featuring the Forth Valley Barbershop Choir and other artistes.

There is a busy year ahead promising some very enjoyable times. May I say again how much the Friends look forward to working for and with the Branch and we hope to see you at some or all of the coming events.

Ann Curtis
Leader

E-MAIL

On the back of this Report is a picture of the computer in our Duty Room. Day and night we respond to e-mails from people all over the world who connect to our website and who ask for emotional support. Edinburgh is only one of over 90 Samaritan Branches in the U.K. and overseas who have trained volunteers to communicate by e-mail, requiring us to exercise different skills but with the same aim of giving emotional support to people who need us.

E-mail is allowing us to communicate with people, especially the young, who may not otherwise contact us and who can benefit from the services we provide. Every effort is made to reach those who are vulnerable and the computer is now one of our major tools through which we hope to bring comfort to lives in distress.

In Edinburgh alone we answered nearly 2000 e-mails last year and all the evidence suggests it will rise this year. Words of comfort come in many forms, tapping them out on a screen is no less powerful.

OUR TALKS PROGRAMME

The need to be active in the wider community continues to be an important priority of the Samaritan movement particularly in the present climate. Local Authorities are becoming more aware of the emotional and pastoral needs of the young people in their care and the need to offer support to their pupils. The rates of suicide, attempted suicide and self-harm continue to rise and every effort must be made to close the gaps in the safety net.

The small, but incredibly dedicated, team of speakers has been continuing the good work undertaken by George last year and has given over seventy talks to a range of organisations. Most of the work has been in schools in the Edinburgh and Lothian areas where Samaritans talks are becoming an integral part of the school programme. Although the school visits can be very challenging to our speakers, the schools appear to value our input judging by the number of return requests and the letters of appreciation.

Reaching out can be stimulating and rewarding and gives people, particularly the vulnerable young, the knowledge that there is someone out there who will listen in complete confidence and without prejudice to those looking for emotional support.

On behalf of the branch I would like to thank all those who have made such a wonderful contribution to this programme. If you know of any organisation who would be interested in hearing about our work, please contact me on 0131 221 9999

Angela
Talks Convenor

SAMARITANS – ALWAYS THERE

We are a charity dedicated to providing confidential, non-judgemental emotional support to everyone who needs us every hour of the day and night, whatever the nature of their crisis. We also try to give to the public at large a better understanding and awareness of the issues surrounding suicide and despair.

Samaritans gives Callers the time and space to explore their feelings in a safe and confidential environment. Talking to somebody who can be trusted gives a caller breathing space – the chance to step back and look at all the options. The promise of confidentiality, the time to talk and the comfort of having someone's undivided attention can help many Callers.

Edinburgh and the Lothians Branch is one of over 200 Samaritan Branches throughout the UK, 19 of them in Scotland. As well as our own local number, there is a single national telephone number, 08457 90 90 90 which should rarely if ever be engaged and Callers are recommended to use. These calls are charged at the local call rate.

How can you help?

1. By becoming a Samaritan

We are always looking for Volunteers. No previous experience is necessary – we give full training to all our new Volunteers. If you feel you would like to know more, we hold regular Information evenings.

2. By supporting us financially

It costs over £150 a day to run the Branch. We depend on the generosity of organisations and individuals. Your donation, of whatever size will be greatly appreciated and will contribute towards keeping our phone lines open.

You may be interested in joining the Friends of the Samaritans, who raise money for us by organising fund raising events.

3. By publicity

You may be able to display our posters, distribute leaflets, or publicise our work in other ways.

4. By inviting us to talk about our work

We are always delighted to visit Schools, Universities, Colleges and other organisations to talk about our work.

If you can help us with any of the above, please give us a ring on **0131 221 9999**.

DONATIONS

We are indebted to the many individuals and organisations who gave us financial support in 2002. Below are some of our major donors:

John Watson's Trust
James Inglis Trust
Robertson Trust
Pleasance Trust
North British Hotel Trust
Mrs M.A.Black's Trust
Saints and Sinners Club
Mickel Fund
Ponton House Trust
Lloyds TSB

In a very real sense the money has helped save lives.

HOW TO CONTACT SAMARITANS

Phone

Call us on 0131 221 9999

Or our national linkline number on 08457 90 90 90

Visit

We are open at 25 Torphichen Street (close to Haymarket Station) for personal Callers from 9 am to 10 pm every day. No appointment is necessary.

Letter

Write to: Chris PO Box 90 90, Stirling FK8 2SA

E-mail

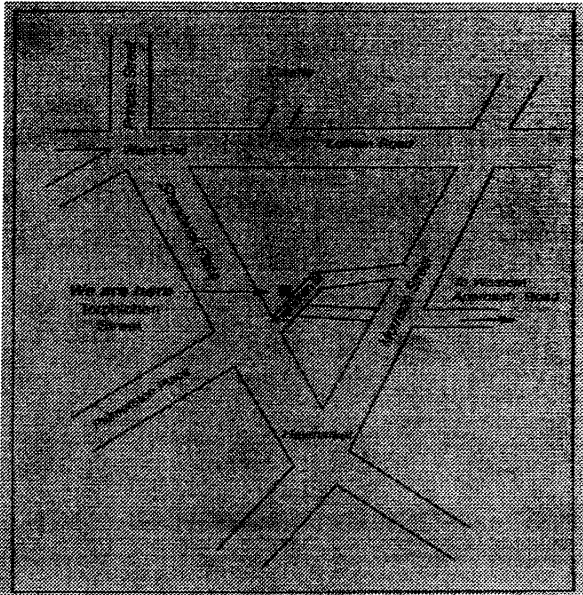
Our e-mail addresses are: jo@samaritans.org

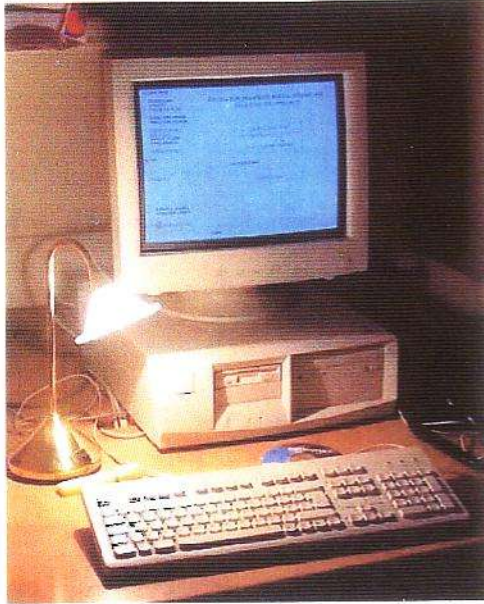
or, for Callers who wish to remain anonymous:

Samaritans@anon.twwells.com

Text phone

For Callers with hearing difficulties, our national text phone number is:
08457 909 192





**25 Torphichen Street
EDINBURGH
EH3 8HX**

**A recognised charity
SCO 06778**

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E-mail: sam.25@virgin.net**