



GMB CREDIT UNION

# ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024

# WELCOME TO YOUR GMB CREDIT UNION ANNUAL REPORT

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**GMB  
CREDIT  
UNION**



# REPORT OF THE GMBCU TREASURER FOR 2024



"GMB Credit Union continues to go from strength to strength and our annual report reflects our successes. My vision for our Credit Union is to multiply in membership ensuring that our members are financially supported by our great Credit Union. Let's get to work together."

## INTRODUCTION

David Castledine is our Treasurer and GMBCU Director. David is also the Regional Finance Officer for GMB Midlands Region and has played a leading role in the governance and development of GMBCU over the last twenty-six years.

The Treasurers report will be made available to GMBCU members registering for the 2025 AGM which will be conducted online on Saturday 29 March 2025. David will also take part in a member Q&A session during our AGM.

The Treasurer's report acknowledges the input of staff, the GMBCU Board and the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statement provided for the year ending 31 December 2024 by our external auditors KM Business Solutions Ltd.

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Castledine".

**David Castledine**

**GMBCU Treasurer & Board Director**  
11 March 2025

# **2024 Operating Environment**

## **A difficult trading year**

The extreme inflationary pressures of 2022 and 2023 may have dissipated but 2024 was another very challenging trading environment for GMBCU and its members. The year was characterised by a flatlining economy, weak demand and rising costs and was not an attractive market for business growth.

GMBCU's approach to this hostile environment was to operate effectively and prudently, optimising our existing resources and maintaining very close control over key areas such as liquidity and bad debt.

Understandably member lending slowed in 2024, however, member savings increased significantly as members enjoyed higher dividend

rates on our enhanced savings accounts. The combined impact of this was to shrink the size but also strengthen our balance sheet in 2024, something we had anticipated in our business plan.

GMBCU is guided by its social purpose as well as its commercial, regulatory responsibilities and of course its operating environment. As a not-for-profit organisation, we continued to balance the need to make a trading surplus whilst supporting our community with competitive savings rates and affordable loans.

## **GMBCU Performance 2024**

The Board's business plan predicted many of the challenges that confronted us in 2024. However, because of our forward planning and strong balance sheet, we were able to successfully navigate another challenging year. The following summary of our results for the year to the 31 December 2024 show a good performance in line with our budget.

See next page for the summary.

# GMBCU Performance to 31 December 2024



A year in review at a glance. We share below a summary of the key financial results and key statistics, the benchmarks by which we measure our performance.

- Total annual income (£1,363,008) held up very well and was 3.9% higher than 2023 (£1,311,550).
- Total annual administration costs (excluding impairment) at £536,136 were in line with budget.
- Loans advanced for the year totalled £3.98 million compared to same period 2023 which were £3.74 million.
- Annual surplus in 2024 was £419,654 which was GMBCU's largest ever annual surplus in 26 years of trading.
- Membership is now 10,550 an increase of 5.4% on year end 2022.



- Tot Savings Balances £11.52 mill (YE 2023= £11.06 mill)
- Tot Loan Balances £10.13 mill (YE 2023 = £10.72 mill)
- No. of new loans in 2024 was 2,721 (2023 = 2,736)
- The value of loans advanced in 2024 was £3.98 mill (2023= £3.74 mill)

- Cash in Bank £2.77 mill (YE 2023 = £1.65 mill)
- Tot paid into GMBCU YE 2024 was £9.57 mill (YE 2023 = £10.08 mill)
- Tot paid out by GMBCU YE 2024 was £7.87 mill (Ye 2023 = £11.53mill)



840 new members



- 840 new members in 2024 (2023 = 781 new members)
- 429 members left in 2024 (2023- 477 members left)
- No. of faster payments in 2024 = 2,398 (2023 =1,770)
- Total membership YE 2024 was 10,941 (2023 =10,550)

**Total Reserves £1,415,688 + £971,000 Deferred Shares = £2,386,688**

**GMBCU capital to asset ratio 18.5%**

**Liquidity ratio 27.7%**

# Focussing on the future

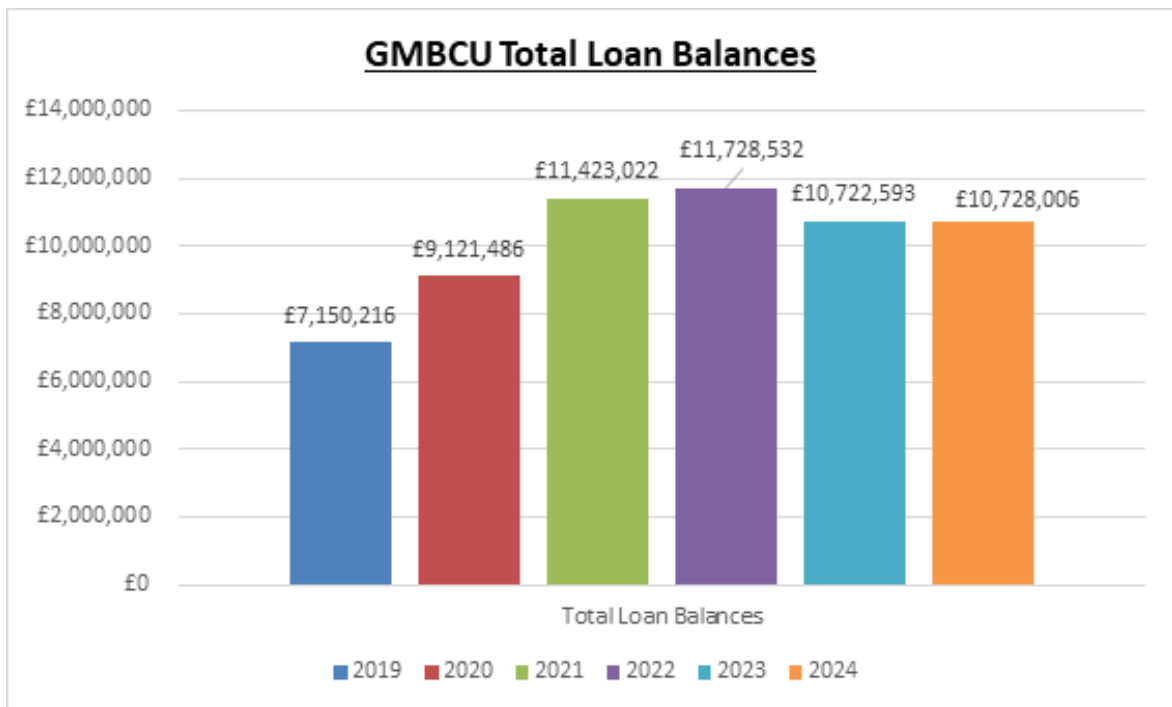
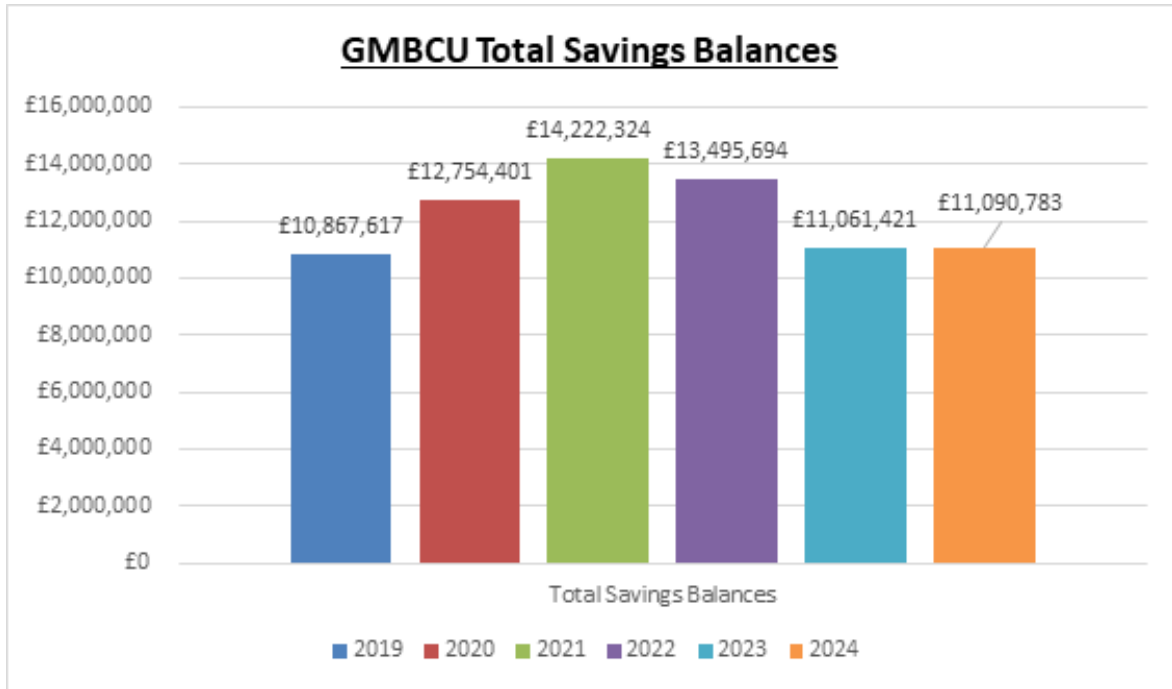
We anticipate that trading will continue to be difficult over the next few years however we are confident that GMBCU will continue to adapt to the challenges and opportunities presented. For GMBCU to grow and flourish in such a volatile world there are number of key factors which we will have to manage carefully.

We wish to attract more GMB members and deepen the relationship we have with our existing members. To achieve this, we must create the right service experience by:

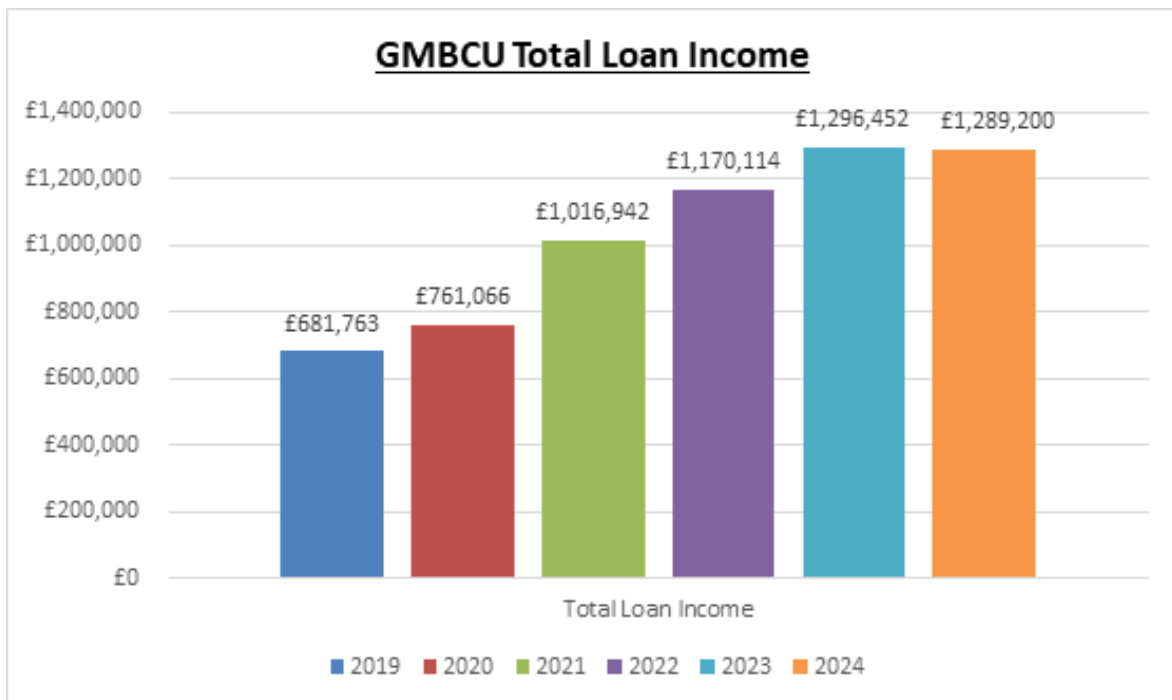
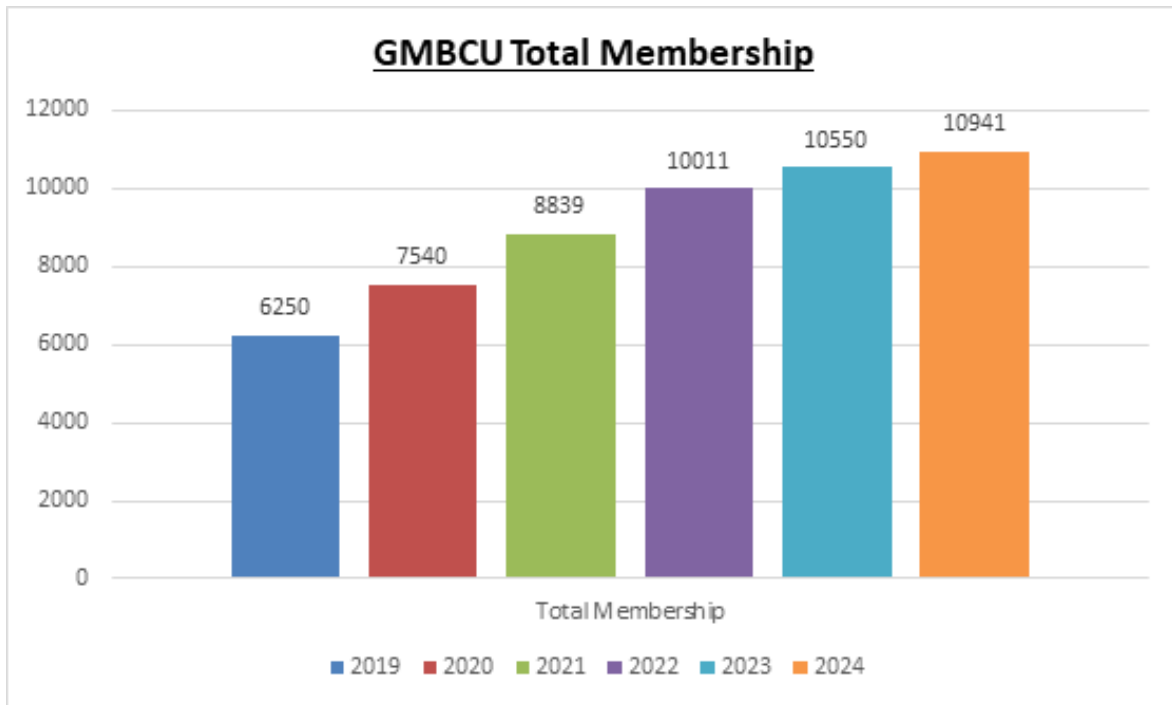
- Raising our **brand awareness** with our main stakeholder GMB Trade Union through agreed enriched joint communications.
- Providing members with a **slick and personalised customer experience**. This includes onboarding/origination for new members and easy to use, intuitive, digital service channels for all members.
- Targeting members with **personalised, appropriate content** and a simple speedily delivered range of affordable products, services and educational content.
- We need to **lever our data to improve member outcomes**. Members are looking for more value in their services and products and will not tolerate experiences which fall short whether they are digital or not.

Running in parallel with our growth objectives is operational and financial resilience which is always a key objective for GMBCU. To achieve this, we are engaging with leading sector suppliers to enhance our savings and loan delivery platforms and improve our credit control function going forward.

# GMBCU Performance to 31 December 2024

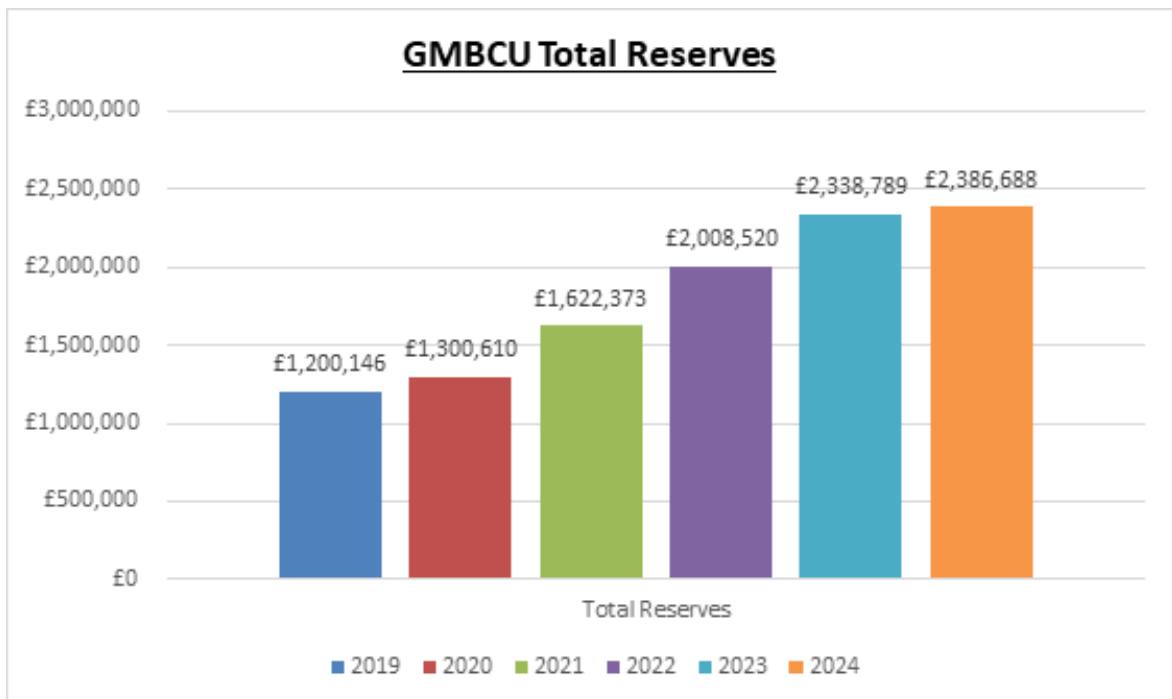
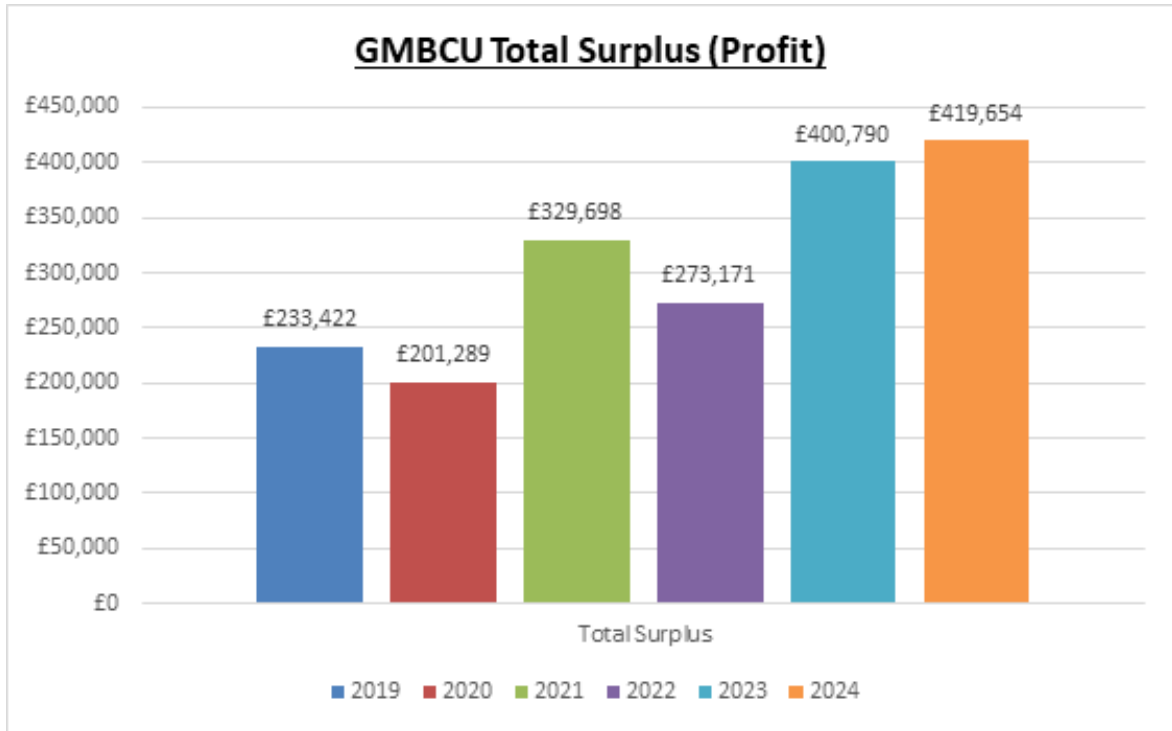


# GMBCU Performance to 31 December 2024





# GMBCU Performance to 31 December 2024



# Auditor's Report

As part of this annual report we share key information from our external auditor's report for 2024. This is the independent audit statements of GMB Credit Union which has been the trading name of Thorne Credit Union Ltd since 2016. The Credit Union was first registered in 1999.

## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
<b>Net interest receivable</b>			
Interest receivable and similar income	4	1,340,669	1,296,452
Interest payable and similar charges	5	(343,839)	(104,687)
		<u>996,830</u>	<u>1,191,765</u>
<b>Other operating income</b>			
Fees and commissions receivable		-	-
Other income		22,340	15,403
		<u>22,340</u>	<u>15,403</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Impairment losses on loans to members	6	(323,501)	(345,786)
Administrative expenses	7	(525,159)	(485,685)
Other operating expenses	10	(70,839)	(58,347)
Depreciation	14	(14,167)	(14,817)
		<u>(933,666)</u>	<u>(902,635)</u>
<b>Surplus before taxation</b>		<b>85,704</b>	<b>304,533</b>
Taxation	11	(8,889)	(8,431)
<b>Surplus for the financial year</b>	<b>12</b>	<b><u>76,815</u></b>	<b><u>296,102</u></b>

The above results were derived from continuing operations.  
There are no other items of comprehensive income.

# Auditor's Report

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		€	€
<b>Assets</b>			
Bank and cash balances	13	2,791,902	1,658,018
Loans and advances to members	14	10,131,405	10,722,593
Tangible fixed assets	15	17,865	32,032
Receivables	16	37,784	30,065
		<u>12,978,956</u>	<u>12,442,708</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Members' deposits	17	11,519,612	11,061,421
Payables	18	25,780	23,538
		<u>11,545,392</u>	<u>11,084,959</u>
Retained earnings		<u>1,433,564</u>	<u>1,357,749</u>
		<u>12,978,956</u>	<u>12,442,708</u>

Surplus reconciliation	2024	2023
	€	€
Operating surplus	419,654	400,789
Interest payable and similar charges	(343,839)	(104,687)
Surplus for the financial year	<u>75,815</u>	<u>296,102</u>



**David Castledine**

11 March 2025

# Friends of GMBCU Prize Draw 2024

Friends of GMBCU Prize Draw Committee have reviewed the administration processes associated with operating the 2024 Credit Union Prize Draw. The monthly figures have also been checked and the automated procedure for drawing winners has been verified.

Ticket sales for 2024 totalled £14,726 compared to sales 2023 which were £14,176 this was an 3.8 % increase in annual ticket sales.

We relaunched our Prize Draw in April 2021 and to date our GMBCU members have participated enthusiastically providing support to 46 charities with total donations of over £30,000.

We may not have the funds of the National Lottery however our Prize Draw is giving GMB members a lot of enjoyment and we have received wonderful feedback from the individual charities who have been nominated by our members.

A full record of all Prize Draw winners is maintained in the Credit Union Office and is available for members to view at any time.

Times are hard for the charity sector so participate in our Member Prize Draw, have some fun, support your community and give yourself a chance of supporting you favoured charity.



## You've got to be in it to win it!

<b>Jan 2024</b>	LGB Alliance - £591
<b>Feb 2024</b>	BBC Children In Need - £608
<b>Mar 2024</b>	Mind - £610
<b>Apr 2024</b>	Cancer Research - £626
<b>May 2024</b>	Carneys Community - £623
<b>Jun 2024</b>	The Craig Tyler Trust - £621
<b>Jul 2024</b>	Castlemilk Community Football Trust - £624
<b>Aug 2024</b>	Imara - £619
<b>Sep 2024</b>	Great Ormand Street - £608
<b>Oct 2024</b>	Ambulance Staff Charity - £614
<b>Nov 2024</b>	Alzheimer Scotland - £612
<b>Dec 2024</b>	Spoons Neonatal - £607

