

AFRICAN SCHOLARS' FUND (UK)

England & Wales · Charity number 1070406

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1998-07-06

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 10 Lurkins Rise
Goudhurst
Cranbrook
TN17 1ED

Phone 07952106408

Email info@asf.org.za

Website www.asf.org.za

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE SECONDARY EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA THROUGH BURSARIES, SCHOLARSHIPS, MENTORING PROGRAMMES OR OTHER SUCH FORMS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AS DETERMINED BY THE TRUSTEES.

Activities: Educational support to scholars in South Africa

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** Education/training, Overseas Aid/famine Relief
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** SOUTH AFRICA
- South Africa

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£33,718	£35,694	-	-
2024-12-31	£24,429	£0	-	-
2023-12-31	£31,952	£31,891	-	-
2022-12-31	£37,934	£37,900	-	-
2021-12-31	£25,592	£30	-	-
2020-12-31	£15,295	£15,265	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANDREW JOHN ELSWORTH	Chair	
PETER GRAHAM ROBERTS		2020-09-10
Ruth Elizabeth Roberts		2023-04-04

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Accounts

AFRICAN SCHOLARS FUND (UK)

UK Address: 10 Lurkins Rise, Goudhurst, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 1ED

Tel: 07952 106408

email: africanscholarsfunduk@gmail.com

Charity Number 1070406

Please find herewith the Chairman's Report for the past year 2025 and a Statement of Accounts for the Year commencing in January and ending 31 December 2025.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2025

It has been a year of change for the ASF in the UK as the organisation continues to negotiate the new relationship with the ASF in South Africa. An African proverb states that "for a tree to flourish, it must honour its roots." We certainly celebrate our roots and origin in the tough years of the apartheid South Africa, and we look forward to continuing to work with the office and staff there.

We have now adopted the new Objective for the ASF in the UK, which is in the process of being approved by the Charity Commission:

To advance the Secondary Education of Children and young people in South Africa through bursaries, scholarships, mentoring programmes or other such forms of financial assistance as determined by the Trustees.

This Objective allows the Trustees of the UK fund to direct the funding towards the most effective support mechanisms and programmes independent of the ASF in South Africa. We have taken this step due to differences which we have with the sustainability and management of the ASF charity in South Africa

It should be noted that we continue to work with, and encourage the ASF in South Africa to meet their own strategic objectives, but ultimately it must be their responsibility. However, it is our responsibility as Trustees of this Charity to ensure that the monies donated towards education support in South Africa are used prudently and efficiently, and in our view, this is not currently the case.

We continue to have fruitful discussions with the South African Trustees on this matter and we hope that it can be resolved. However, while it is very disappointing to have to report this, we consider that it is an opportunity to look at the work being carried out by other educational charities in the region as alternative approaches to supporting education.

Through this Annual Report and the accompanying letter, we would invite you to confirm if you wish your donation to be "earmarked" for the South African ASF work, or whether you are content for the Trustees of the ASF UK to make the decision on the allocation of your funds.

You can contact us with your decision either via email to africanscholarsfunduk@gmail.com, or letter to the above address, by telephone call or message to the number above.

Should we not hear from you, we will assume that you support the changes to the Objectives of this Charity and the decisions made by the Trustees.

I am pleased to report that our UK Charity, yet again, carries no administration expenses this year. In total, £35,668.84 has been transferred from to the African Scholars' Fund in South Africa, a significant increase on previous years.

Sandy Elsworth
Chairman, Board of Trustees, African Scholars Fund (UK)

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

INCOME:	Donations Received	£31,586.44	
	Gift Aid Reclaimed	£2,071.75	
	Interest	£ 59.64	
	Sub total Income		£33,717.83
EXPENSES:	Bank charges	£23.50	
	Administration	£0.00	
	Sub total Expenses		£23.50
AVAILABLE FOR DISBURSEMENT:			£33,694.33

Total transferred to African Scholars' Fund (SA) £35,668.84, which includes some funds from previous years income.

The Charity has no assets or liabilities.

Members of the Board of Trustees, ASF UK as at 31 December 2025

Mr Sandy Elsworth. Chair
Mr Peter Roberts, Vice Chair
Ms Ruth Roberts
Dr Miquela Walsh

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Tel: 07952 106408

email: africanscholarsfunduk@gmail.com

Charity Number 1070406

Please find herewith the Chairman's Report for the past year 2024 and a Statement of Accounts for the Year commencing in January and ending 31 December 2024

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2024

The year commenced with a Strategic Review of the work of the African Scholars' Fund in South Africa. This was partially instigated and encouraged by the Trustees here in the UK on the basis of concerns we have regarding the operation of the ASF SA. In particular, our primary concern is that the administration costs of running the SA operation have grown rapidly over the past 10 years and have exceeded our estimation of what is reasonable for a charity.

The Strategic Plan, which evolved from the Workshop, identified the first Objective as:

The ASF must not run at a loss. Accounts must balance each year without taking into account any capital appreciation of investments.

The Plan included a requirement to Report on progress made and a requirement to Report the final outcome. While some progress has been made we consider that further work is still required to meet our requirements.

In the light of this we have decided to take the following actions:

1. To retain any further transfer of funds to the ASF in South Africa (not specifically "ear-marked") until such time that the Trustees in the UK are satisfied with the progress made against the agreed Strategic Objectives of the Plan, and particularly in relation to the financial imbalance;
2. To review the Constitution of the Fund to allow the wider funding of alternative charities supporting Education Advancement operating in the region, particularly in the Western and Eastern Cape Province area;
3. To consult, via this Annual Report, with our Donors on the current situation and invite their views on the way forward.

It should be noted that we continue to work with, and encourage the ASF in South Africa to meet their own strategic objectives, but ultimately it must be their responsibility. However, it is our responsibility as Trustees of this Charity to ensure that the monies donated towards education support in South Africa are used prudently and efficiently, and in our view, this is not currently the case.

We continue to have fruitful discussions with the South African Trustees on this matter and we hope that it can be resolved in the near future. However, while it is very disappointing to have to report this, we consider that it is an opportunity to look at the work being carried out by other educational charities in the region as alternative approaches to supporting education.

The Revised Constitution will have, as the Charity Objective a statement similar to as shown below:

To advance the Secondary Education of Children and young people in South Africa in such ways as the Trustees may in their absolute discretion determine, particularly in ways which may result in the award to such students of financial or other assistance.

You are welcome to contact me with any comments or queries on this matter, either using my email above, or via the post to the address, or to phone.

I am pleased to report that our UK Charity, yet again, carries no charges or expenses this year.

Sandy Elsworth
Chairman, Board of Trustees, African Scholars Fund (UK)

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

INCOME:	Donations Received	£24,319.15	
	Interest	£110.34	
	Sub total Income		£24,429.49
EXPENSES:	Bank charges	£0.00	
	Administration	£0.00	
	Sub total Expenses		£0.00
AVAILABLE FOR DISBURSEMENT:			£24,429.49

The Charity has no assets or liabilities.

Members of the Board of Trustees, ASF UK

Mr Sandy Elsworth. Chair
Mr Peter Roberts, Vice Chair
Ms Ruth Roberts
Dr Miquela Walsh

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AFRICAN SCHOLARS FUND (UK)

UK Address: 10 Lurkins Rise, Goudhurst, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 1ED

SA Address: P O Box 294, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7701, South Africa

Tel: 07952 106408

email: uk@asf.org.za

Charity Number 1070406

Please find herewith the Chairman's Report for the past year 2022 and a Statement of Accounts for the Year commencing in January and ending 31 December 2022.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2022

It gives me great pleasure to report again on the activity of the UK branch of the ASF.

Individual contributions during the year totalled nearly £38,000 which has been transferred to the office in Cape Town for disbursement.

We offer our thanks to all our supporters who provide encouragement and finance for the work of the Fund. Many thanks also to Tiverton Rotary UK and some of their members who have generously supported the fund for the first time this year. We hope this relationship will continue.

Sandy Elsworth

Chairman, Board of Trustees
African Scholars Fund (UK)

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

INCOME:	Donations Received	£37915.29	
	Interest	£19.14	
	Sub total Income		£37,934.43
EXPENSES:	Bank charges	£60.78	
	Administration	£0.00	
	Sub total Expenses		£60.78
AVAILABLE FOR DISBURSEMENT:			£37,873.65

The Charity has no assets or liabilities.

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Tel: 07952 106408

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Charity Number 1070406

Please find herewith the Chairman's Report for the past year 2021 and a Statement of Accounts for the Year commencing in January and ending 31 December 2021.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2021

It gives me great pleasure to report again on the activity of the UK branch of the ASF.

Individual contributions and Gift Aid reclaimed during the year totalled over £24,000 which has been transferred to the office in Cape Town for disbursement.

We offer our thanks to all our supporters who provide encouragement and finance for the work of the Fund. In particular, we are grateful for the £15,000 contribution from the Shuttleworth Foundation, and the additional donations from many following the publication of the 50th Anniversary Booklet.

It is also a pleasure to welcome Peter Roberts as a Trustee to the ASF in the UK. He brings a depth of experience in working in SA, and with many charitable organisations. He is now based in England, and I know his enthusiasm and contribution will be hugely beneficial to the growth of the work of the Fund.

Sandy Elsworth

Chairman, Board of Trustees
African Scholars Fund (UK)

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

INCOME:	Donations Received	£23,930.29	
	Gift Aid reclaimed	£1,662.25	
	Interest	£0.37	
	Sub total Income		£25,592.91
EXPENSES:	Bank charges	£30.50	
	Administration	£0.00	
	Sub total Expenses		£30.50
AVAILABLE FOR DISBURSEMENT:			£25,562.41

The Charity has no assets or liabilities.