

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05523632 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1112260

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023
for
Operation Christmas Box

Maximus Accountancy Services Limited
47 Kensington Road
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 7XS

Operation Christmas Box

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Operation Christmas Box

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

TRUSTEES

Mr A Sims (resigned 1.2.2024)
Mrs S Little (resigned 1.2.2024)
Wing Commander (Retd) C Wookey (resigned 1.2.2024)
Colonel (Retd) S R Sharman
Mr C T Scanlon (appointed 1.3.2023)
Lt Colonel (Retd) N Russell (appointed 4.10.2023)

REGISTERED OFFICE

Castle Hill Barns
New Hill
Hough on the Hill
Grantham
Lincolnshire
NG32 2AZ

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NUMBER**

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Maximus Accountancy Services Limited
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Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects for which the charity was established are to help improve the morale of the UK Armed Forces, through charitable means, by promoting the well-being and esprit de corps of all those on military service. This is achieved, primarily, by providing Christmas Boxes to all unaccompanied personnel serving on operations and overseas, who are away from their families and loved ones on Christmas Day each year.

The charity cannot operate without assistance from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) which provides estimates of numbers likely to be away, and locations. It also provides senior military officers to sit on the MOD Christmas Box Committee and who give their advice on items and the suitability of the Christmas Box contents. The MOD assists with the Christmas Box distribution using irreducible spare capacity in their supply chain in the early autumn each year.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, and in the planning of future activities, they have consulted the guidance in the Charity Commission's Guidance on Public Benefit.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The charity continues to deliver annually against its main task of providing a morale boosting gift box to all unaccompanied UK military personnel serving overseas on Christmas Day.

Following the name change to Operation Christmas Box at the beginning of 2019, the trustees believe that the name is becoming more well known within the Armed Forces but there is still much work to do.

The 2023 Christmas Box contents were compiled with help from the military members of the MOD Christmas Box Committee and ideas suggested by serving personnel. The annual planning meeting, held during late autumn of 2022, set out a proposed list of the contents for the 2023 box. The trustees subsequently confirmed the final list with the assistance of Box, Tray & Giraffe Inc, our Chinese supplier. The trustees contracted to purchase 8,500 Christmas Boxes for 2023. As in previous years, the feedback from a number of commanding officers and individuals was excellent, and the boxes undoubtedly achieved the charity's aim of improving the morale of all those UK troops who were on operations away from friends and families on Christmas Day 2023.

Fundraising activities

Despite the large numbers of UK Armed Forces still on operations, raising sponsorship can be a challenge. However, the trustees have retained key sponsors, in particular The Nuffield Trust for Forces of the Crown and The Gosling Foundation, both of whom greatly value what the charity delivers.

The Sponsors golf day, that had been postponed from September 2022 due to the death of HM The Queen, took place at the Ash Valley Golf Club in June 2023. The event was a great success, raising awareness of the charity across defence, as well as generating donations of £15,124 (including £13,500 which was received in 2022).

Social Media

An ex-RN sailor has continued to act as a social media consultant on a part time pro bono basis, which has ensured a good social media presence. This has enabled the trustees to provide an impressive array of social media comments and images from Christmas Box recipients around the world. It has also enabled images of the boxes and contents taken in theatre to be included on our website and forwarded to our sponsors.

Thanks

The trustees would like to reiterate their thanks to both the MOD and to Box, Tray & Giraffe Inc. The trustees are also most grateful to Good Logistics Group for their assistance in unloading the container from Felixstowe, and with palletising and shrink wrapping the boxes before sending the boxes for distribution to their final destinations.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

During the year the charity received donations amounting to £127,753 (2022: £128,170). The direct cost of the Christmas Boxes for Christmas 2023 was £124,042 (2022: £137,734), and the cost of generating funds amounted to £17,356 (2022: £16,022).

The overall deficit for the year, after taking into account other income, realised and unrealised gains and losses on investments, and the minimal support and governance costs, amounted to £13,825 (2022: deficit of £63,617), none of which is restricted. At the year end the unrestricted reserves amounted to £151,820 (2022: £165,645).

Reserves and investments

The charity operates on a year by year basis with purchase costs known in advance. The trustees are required to pay a 30% deposit when placing the order for the Christmas Boxes and the balance 45 days after receipt of the bill of lading. They have always considered that they should have reserves to cover the average cost of two years of boxes at a realistic level (eg 9,000 boxes per year at £15 per box) of around £270,000. The trustees have achieved this in previous years but they are now struggling to maintain this level of income, and reserves are currently equivalent to a little over one year's running costs including the Christmas Boxes.

As interest rates have improved, and markets continue to be volatile, the trustees agreed to liquidate the investment portfolio in the prior year so that reserve funds were held as cash as at the year end, pending a decision on the charity's future investment strategy.

FUTURE PLANS

The future is looking positive, with a new approach to sponsorship aiming to secure funds on a two year basis, rather than on an annual basis. Whilst this concept is still in its infancy the signs are encouraging as it enables the charity to present a more joined up and considered financial profile to prospective sponsors who are willing to consider funding for two, rather than just one year of delivery.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

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 charity was incorporated on 1 August 2005 and registered as a charity on 24 November 2005. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the charity. In the event of the charity being wound up the members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The charity was originally known as UK4U-Thanks and changed its name to Operation Christmas Box with effect from 28 February 2018 as this is deemed more representative of the charity's raison d'être.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The day to day management of the affairs of the charity is undertaken by the trustees.

The trustees were approached to act as trustees due to their connection with the military. Given the nature of the charity's activities no formal induction or training is considered to be required. The trustees are aware of their responsibilities and take advice from the Charity Commission and professional advisers as the need arises.

At the beginning of 2023 three of the founding trustees, Sally Little, Allan Sims and Charles Wookey, confirmed that they would be resigning as trustees after nearly 20 years of being on the front line in supporting the charity, but would remain as advisers to oversee the transition to the new regime. As a result two new trustees, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Neil Russell and Ciaran Scanlon were recruited and appointed during the year.

It is with great sadness that the trustees have to announce the death of Allan Sims, who was a founding trustee and a stalwart of the charity since its inception in 2005. Allan's common sense, good humour and financial acumen have contributed to over 250,000 boxes being sent to UK troops on operations away from friends and family over Christmas over the last 19 years. He will be sorely missed - RIP.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Our Patron

James Gray, MP for North Wiltshire from 1997 to 2024, accepted the trustees' invitation to become Patron of Operation Christmas Box in 2017. James is very sympathetic to HM Forces having had a short military career (1977-84) in the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC).

He is very enthusiastic about the work that the charity does and stands ready to assist the charity's work in whatever capacity that he can.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 30 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Colonel (Retd) S R Sharman - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Operation Christmas Box ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Hilary Julian BA FCA DChA

Maximus Accountancy Services Limited
47 Kensington Road
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30 September 2024

Operation Christmas Box

Statement of Financial Activities

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	127,753	-	127,753	128,170
Investment income	3	1,948	-	1,948	4,155
Total		<u>129,701</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>129,701</u>	<u>132,325</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	4	17,373	-	17,373	16,105
Charitable activities	5				
Christmas Boxes		<u>126,153</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>126,153</u>	<u>139,771</u>
Total		<u>143,526</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>143,526</u>	<u>155,876</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(40,066)</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(13,825)	-	(13,825)	(63,617)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		165,645	-	165,645	229,262
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>151,820</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>151,820</u></u>	<u><u>165,645</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet

31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	9	-	-	-	4,838
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	26,849	-	26,849	27,711
Cash at bank		127,771	-	127,771	135,082
		<u>154,620</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>154,620</u>	<u>162,793</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(2,800)	-	(2,800)	(1,986)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>151,820</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151,820</u>	<u>160,807</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>151,820</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151,820</u>	<u>165,645</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>151,820</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151,820</u>	<u>165,645</u>
FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund				151,820	165,645
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>151,820</u>	<u>165,645</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 30 September 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Colonel (Retd) S R Sharman - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at their fair value, in accordance with the SORP.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from sponsorship of the Christmas boxes is recognised in the period to which it relates.

Donations are recognised when received. Donations in the form of gifts in kind are recognised as income when distributed, or when the service is received, with an equivalent amount being included as expenditure. Gifts in kind are valued at an estimate of the market value the charity would have to pay for an equivalent item or service.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Charitable expenditure relates to the cost of the Christmas boxes and related support costs. Support costs includes expenditure on management and administration of the charity including trustees' expenses and the independent examiner's fees.

The cost of raising funds includes expenditure on social media, fundraising activities and investment management costs.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in net gains/(losses) in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or the fair value can otherwise be measured reliably.

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised as expenditure.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations	127,753	128,170

Donations include £12,000 (2022: £3,000) in respect of donated services. The equivalent expenditure is included as fundraising expenditure.

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income from listed investments	-	3,440
Income from unlisted investments	-	605
Bank interest	1,948	110
	1,948	4,155

4. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2023	2022
	£	£
Outsourced social media and fundraising support	12,000	12,000
Website costs	517	324
Fundraising events	3,017	3,698
Travelling expenses	1,822	-
	17,356	16,022

Investment management costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Portfolio management	17	83
	17,373	16,105

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 6) £	Totals £
Christmas Boxes	124,042	2,111	126,153

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Charity running costs £
Christmas Boxes	2,111

Support costs include £500 payable to the independent examiner in respect of the independent examination (2022: £500) and £900 (2022: £900) for other services.

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Trustees' expenses

Three trustees were reimbursed a total of £654 for travel and subsistence expenses incurred whilst carrying out their duties (2022 one trustee was reimbursed a total of £112).

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	128,170	-	128,170
Investment income	4,155	-	4,155
Total	132,325	-	132,325
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	16,105	-	16,105
Charitable activities			
Christmas Boxes	139,771	-	139,771
Total	155,876	-	155,876
Net gains/(losses) on investments	(40,066)	-	(40,066)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(63,617)	-	(63,617)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	229,262	-	229,262

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>165,645</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>165,645</u>

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Unlisted investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 January 2023	4,838
Disposals	(4,838)
	<u>-</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>4,838</u>

Unlisted investments are valued at the recoverable amount of the loan portfolio at the balance sheet date. There were no investment assets outside the UK.

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	<u>26,849</u>	<u>27,711</u>

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	-	586
Other creditors	<u>2,800</u>	<u>1,400</u>
	<u>2,800</u>	<u>1,986</u>

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	165,645	(13,825)	151,820
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>165,645</u>	<u>(13,825)</u>	<u>151,820</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	129,701	(143,526)	(13,825)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>129,701</u>	<u>(143,526)</u>	<u>(13,825)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	227,977	(63,617)	1,285	165,645
Fair value reserve	1,285	-	(1,285)	-
	<u>229,262</u>	<u>(63,617)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>165,645</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>229,262</u>	<u>(63,617)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>165,645</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	132,325	(155,876)	(40,066)	(63,617)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>132,325</u>	<u>(155,876)</u>	<u>(40,066)</u>	<u>(63,617)</u>

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

As referred to in the trustees' report, the Christmas Boxes were sourced from a Chinese manufacturer, Box, Tray & Giraffe Inc. As the arrangements are not yet in place for the charity to deal direct with the Chinese manufacturer, or to handle the importation of the boxes, the charity was again assisted by an experienced importer, Xpedent UK Limited, for the all-in price of £124,042. Xpedent UK Limited is owned and managed by the adult children of Allan Sims, who was a trustee of the charity throughout the year.

14. PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SERVICES

In common with many charities of a similar size the independent examiner prepares the statutory report and accounts on behalf of the trustees. The trustees are responsible for the accounts of the charity and the trustees review and approve the accounts once these have been prepared on their behalf. The independent examiner also prepares the corporation tax computation and return for the approval of the trustees.

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Operation Christmas Box

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Operation Christmas Box

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for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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Governing document

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 charity was incorporated on 1 August 2005 and registered as a charity on 24 November 2005. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the charity. In the event of the charity being wound up the members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The charity was originally known as UK4U-Thanks and changed its name to Operation Christmas Box with effect from 28 February 2018 as this is deemed more representative of the charity's raison d'être.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The day to day management of the affairs of the charity is undertaken by the trustees.

The trustees were approached to act as trustees due to their connection with the military. Given the nature of the charity's activities no formal induction or training is considered to be required. The trustees are aware of their responsibilities and take advice from the Charity Commission and professional advisers as the need arises.

At the beginning of 2023 three of the founding trustees, Sally Little, Allan Sims and Charles Wookey, confirmed that they would be resigning as trustees after nearly 20 years of being on the front line in supporting the charity, but would remain as advisers to oversee the transition to the new regime. As a result two new trustees, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Neil Russell and Ciaran Scanlon were recruited and appointed during the year.

It is with great sadness that the trustees have to announce the death of Allan Sims, who was a founding trustee and a stalwart of the charity since its inception in 2005. Allan's common sense, good humour and financial acumen have contributed to over 250,000 boxes being sent to UK troops on operations away from friends and family over Christmas over the last 19 years. He will be sorely missed - RIP.

Operation Christmas Box

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Our Patron

James Gray, MP for North Wiltshire from 1997 to 2024, accepted the trustees' invitation to become Patron of Operation Christmas Box in 2017. James is very sympathetic to HM Forces having had a short military career (1977-84) in the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC).

He is very enthusiastic about the work that the charity does and stands ready to assist the charity's work in whatever capacity that he can.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on30 Sep 24..... and signed on its behalf by:



Colonel (Retd) S R Sharman - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Operation Christmas Box

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Operation Christmas Box ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Hilary Julian BA FCA DChA

Maximus Accountancy Services Limited
47 Kensington Road
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 7XS

Date:

Operation Christmas Box

Statement of Financial Activities
(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	127,753	-	127,753	128,170
Investment income	3	1,948	-	1,948	4,155
Total		<u>129,701</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>129,701</u>	<u>132,325</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	4	17,373	-	17,373	16,105
Charitable activities	5				
Christmas Boxes		<u>126,153</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>126,153</u>	<u>139,771</u>
Total		<u>143,526</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>143,526</u>	<u>155,876</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(40,066)</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(13,825)	-	(13,825)	(63,617)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		165,645	-	165,645	229,262
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>151,820</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>151,820</u></u>	<u><u>165,645</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet
31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	9	-	-	-	4,838
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	26,849	-	26,849	27,711
Cash at bank		127,771	-	127,771	135,082
		<u>154,620</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>154,620</u>	<u>162,793</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(2,800)	-	(2,800)	(1,986)
		<u>151,820</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151,820</u>	<u>160,807</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>151,820</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151,820</u>	<u>160,807</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>151,820</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151,820</u>	<u>165,645</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>151,820</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151,820</u>	<u>165,645</u>
FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund				151,820	165,645
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>151,820</u>	<u>165,645</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 30 SEP 24 and were signed on its behalf by:



Colonel (Retd) S R Sharman - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at their fair value, in accordance with the SORP.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from sponsorship of the Christmas boxes is recognised in the period to which it relates.

Donations are recognised when received. Donations in the form of gifts in kind are recognised as income when distributed, or when the service is received, with an equivalent amount being included as expenditure. Gifts in kind are valued at an estimate of the market value the charity would have to pay for an equivalent item or service.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Charitable expenditure relates to the cost of the Christmas boxes and related support costs. Support costs includes expenditure on management and administration of the charity including trustees' expenses and the independent examiner's fees.

The cost of raising funds includes expenditure on social media, fundraising activities and investment management costs.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in net gains/(losses) in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or the fair value can otherwise be measured reliably.

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised as expenditure.

Operation Christmas Box

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations	127,753	128,170

Donations include £12,000 (2022: £3,000) in respect of donated services. The equivalent expenditure is included as fundraising expenditure.

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income from listed investments	-	3,440
Income from unlisted investments	-	605
Bank interest	1,948	110
	<u>1,948</u>	<u>4,155</u>

4. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2023	2022
	£	£
Outsourced social media and fundraising support	12,000	12,000
Website costs	517	324
Fundraising events	3,017	3,698
Travelling expenses	1,822	-
	<u>17,356</u>	<u>16,022</u>

Investment management costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Portfolio management	17	83
	<u>17</u>	<u>83</u>
Aggregate amounts	<u>17,373</u>	<u>16,105</u>

Operation Christmas Box

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 6) £	Totals £
Christmas Boxes	124,042	2,111	126,153

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Charity running costs £
Christmas Boxes	2,111

Support costs include £500 payable to the independent examiner in respect of the independent examination (2022: £500) and £900 (2022: £900) for other services.

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Trustees' expenses

Three trustees were reimbursed a total of £654 for travel and subsistence expenses incurred whilst carrying out their duties (2022 one trustee was reimbursed a total of £112).

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	128,170	-	128,170
Investment income	4,155	-	4,155
Total	132,325	-	132,325
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	16,105	-	16,105
Charitable activities			
Christmas Boxes	139,771	-	139,771
Total	155,876	-	155,876
Net gains/(losses) on investments	(40,066)	-	(40,066)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(63,617)	-	(63,617)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	229,262	-	229,262

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	165,645	-	165,645

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Unlisted investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 January 2023	4,838
Disposals	(4,838)
At 31 December 2023	-
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2023	-
At 31 December 2022	4,838

Unlisted investments are valued at the recoverable amount of the loan portfolio at the balance sheet date. There were no investment assets outside the UK.

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	26,849	27,711

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	-	586
Other creditors	2,800	1,400
	2,800	1,986

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	165,645	(13,825)	151,820
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>165,645</u>	<u>(13,825)</u>	<u>151,820</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	129,701	(143,526)	(13,825)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>129,701</u>	<u>(143,526)</u>	<u>(13,825)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	227,977	(63,617)	1,285	165,645
Fair value reserve	1,285	-	(1,285)	-
	<u>229,262</u>	<u>(63,617)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>165,645</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>229,262</u>	<u>(63,617)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>165,645</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	132,325	(155,876)	(40,066)	(63,617)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>132,325</u>	<u>(155,876)</u>	<u>(40,066)</u>	<u>(63,617)</u>

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

As referred to in the trustees' report, the Christmas Boxes were sourced from a Chinese manufacturer, Box, Tray & Giraffe Inc. As the arrangements are not yet in place for the charity to deal direct with the Chinese manufacturer, or to handle the importation of the boxes, the charity was again assisted by an experienced importer, Xpedent UK Limited, for the all-in price of £124,042. Xpedent UK Limited is owned and managed by the adult children of Allan Sims, who was a trustee of the charity throughout the year.

14. PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SERVICES

In common with many charities of a similar size the independent examiner prepares the statutory report and accounts on behalf of the trustees. The trustees are responsible for the accounts of the charity and the trustees review and approve the accounts once these have been prepared on their behalf. The independent examiner also prepares the corporation tax computation and return for the approval of the trustees.

Operation Christmas Box

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	127,753	128,170
Investment income		
Income from listed investments	-	3,440
Income from unlisted investments	-	605
Bank interest	1,948	110
	<u>1,948</u>	<u>4,155</u>
Total incoming resources	129,701	132,325
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Outsourced social media and fundraising support	12,000	12,000
Website costs	517	324
Fundraising events	3,017	3,698
Travelling expenses	1,822	-
	<u>17,356</u>	<u>16,022</u>
Investment management costs		
Portfolio management	17	83
Charitable activities		
Cost of Christmas boxes	124,042	137,734
Support costs		
Charity running costs		
Insurance	112	112
Postage and stationery	6	70
Sundries	593	455
Accountancy fees	900	900
Independent examination	500	500
	<u>2,111</u>	<u>2,037</u>
Total resources expended	<u>143,526</u>	<u>155,876</u>
Net expenditure before gains and losses	(13,825)	(23,551)
Realised recognised gains and losses		
Realised gains/(losses) on fixed asset investments	-	(40,066)
Net expenditure	<u>(13,825)</u>	<u>(63,617)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05523632 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1112260

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023
for
Operation Christmas Box

Maximus Accountancy Services Limited
47 Kensington Road
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 7XS

Operation Christmas Box

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to the Financial Statements	8 to 13

Operation Christmas Box

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

TRUSTEES

Mr A Sims (resigned 1.2.2024)
Mrs S Little (resigned 1.2.2024)
Wing Commander (Retd) C Wookey (resigned 1.2.2024)
Colonel (Retd) S R Sharman
Mr C T Scanlon (appointed 1.3.2023)
Lt Colonel (Retd) N Russell (appointed 4.10.2023)

REGISTERED OFFICE

Castle Hill Barns
New Hill
Hough on the Hill
Grantham
Lincolnshire
NG32 2AZ

**REGISTERED COMPANY
NUMBER**

05523632 (England and Wales)

**REGISTERED CHARITY
NUMBER**

1112260

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Maximus Accountancy Services Limited
47 Kensington Road
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 7XS

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objects for which the charity was established are to help improve the morale of the UK Armed Forces, through charitable means, by promoting the well-being and esprit de corps of all those on military service. This is achieved, primarily, by providing Christmas Boxes to all unaccompanied personnel serving on operations and overseas, who are away from their families and loved ones on Christmas Day each year.

The charity cannot operate without assistance from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) which provides estimates of numbers likely to be away, and locations. It also provides senior military officers to sit on the MOD Christmas Box Committee and who give their advice on items and the suitability of the Christmas Box contents. The MOD assists with the Christmas Box distribution using irreducible spare capacity in their supply chain in the early autumn each year.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives, and in the planning of future activities, they have consulted the guidance in the Charity Commission's Guidance on Public Benefit.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The charity continues to deliver annually against its main task of providing a morale boosting gift box to all unaccompanied UK military personnel serving overseas on Christmas Day.

Following the name change to Operation Christmas Box at the beginning of 2019, the trustees believe that the name is becoming more well known within the Armed Forces but there is still much work to do.

The 2023 Christmas Box contents were compiled with help from the military members of the MOD Christmas Box Committee and ideas suggested by serving personnel. The annual planning meeting, held during late autumn of 2022, set out a proposed list of the contents for the 2023 box. The trustees subsequently confirmed the final list with the assistance of Box, Tray & Giraffe Inc, our Chinese supplier. The trustees contracted to purchase 8,500 Christmas Boxes for 2023. As in previous years, the feedback from a number of commanding officers and individuals was excellent, and the boxes undoubtedly achieved the charity's aim of improving the morale of all those UK troops who were on operations away from friends and families on Christmas Day 2023.

Fundraising activities

Despite the large numbers of UK Armed Forces still on operations, raising sponsorship can be a challenge. However, the trustees have retained key sponsors, in particular The Nuffield Trust for Forces of the Crown and The Gosling Foundation, both of whom greatly value what the charity delivers.

The Sponsors golf day, that had been postponed from September 2022 due to the death of HM The Queen, took place at the Ash Valley Golf Club in June 2023. The event was a great success, raising awareness of the charity across defence, as well as generating donations of £15,124 (including £13,500 which was received in 2022).

Social Media

An ex-RN sailor has continued to act as a social media consultant on a part time pro bono basis, which has ensured a good social media presence. This has enabled the trustees to provide an impressive array of social media comments and images from Christmas Box recipients around the world. It has also enabled images of the boxes and contents taken in theatre to be included on our website and forwarded to our sponsors.

Thanks

The trustees would like to reiterate their thanks to both the MOD and to Box, Tray & Giraffe Inc. The trustees are also most grateful to Good Logistics Group for their assistance in unloading the container from Felixstowe, and with palletising and shrink wrapping the boxes before sending the boxes for distribution to their final destinations.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

During the year the charity received donations amounting to £127,753 (2022: £128,170). The direct cost of the Christmas Boxes for Christmas 2023 was £124,042 (2022: £137,734), and the cost of generating funds amounted to £17,356 (2022: £16,022).

The overall deficit for the year, after taking into account other income, realised and unrealised gains and losses on investments, and the minimal support and governance costs, amounted to £13,825 (2022: deficit of £63,617), none of which is restricted. At the year end the unrestricted reserves amounted to £151,820 (2022: £165,645).

Reserves and investments

The charity operates on a year by year basis with purchase costs known in advance. The trustees are required to pay a 30% deposit when placing the order for the Christmas Boxes and the balance 45 days after receipt of the bill of lading. They have always considered that they should have reserves to cover the average cost of two years of boxes at a realistic level (eg 9,000 boxes per year at £15 per box) of around £270,000. The trustees have achieved this in previous years but they are now struggling to maintain this level of income, and reserves are currently equivalent to a little over one year's running costs including the Christmas Boxes.

As interest rates have improved, and markets continue to be volatile, the trustees agreed to liquidate the investment portfolio in the prior year so that reserve funds were held as cash as at the year end, pending a decision on the charity's future investment strategy.

FUTURE PLANS

The future is looking positive, with a new approach to sponsorship aiming to secure funds on a two year basis, rather than on an annual basis. Whilst this concept is still in its infancy the signs are encouraging as it enables the charity to present a more joined up and considered financial profile to prospective sponsors who are willing to consider funding for two, rather than just one year of delivery.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

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 charity was incorporated on 1 August 2005 and registered as a charity on 24 November 2005. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the charity. In the event of the charity being wound up the members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The charity was originally known as UK4U-Thanks and changed its name to Operation Christmas Box with effect from 28 February 2018 as this is deemed more representative of the charity's raison d'être.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The day to day management of the affairs of the charity is undertaken by the trustees.

The trustees were approached to act as trustees due to their connection with the military. Given the nature of the charity's activities no formal induction or training is considered to be required. The trustees are aware of their responsibilities and take advice from the Charity Commission and professional advisers as the need arises.

At the beginning of 2023 three of the founding trustees, Sally Little, Allan Sims and Charles Wookey, confirmed that they would be resigning as trustees after nearly 20 years of being on the front line in supporting the charity, but would remain as advisers to oversee the transition to the new regime. As a result two new trustees, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Neil Russell and Ciaran Scanlon were recruited and appointed during the year.

It is with great sadness that the trustees have to announce the death of Allan Sims, who was a founding trustee and a stalwart of the charity since its inception in 2005. Allan's common sense, good humour and financial acumen have contributed to over 250,000 boxes being sent to UK troops on operations away from friends and family over Christmas over the last 19 years. He will be sorely missed - RIP.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Our Patron

James Gray, MP for North Wiltshire from 1997 to 2024, accepted the trustees' invitation to become Patron of Operation Christmas Box in 2017. James is very sympathetic to HM Forces having had a short military career (1977-84) in the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC).

He is very enthusiastic about the work that the charity does and stands ready to assist the charity's work in whatever capacity that he can.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 30 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Colonel (Retd) S R Sharman - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Operation Christmas Box ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Hilary Julian BA FCA DChA

Maximus Accountancy Services Limited
47 Kensington Road
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 7XS

30 September 2024

Operation Christmas Box

Statement of Financial Activities

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	127,753	-	127,753	128,170
Investment income	3	1,948	-	1,948	4,155
Total		<u>129,701</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>129,701</u>	<u>132,325</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	4	17,373	-	17,373	16,105
Charitable activities	5				
Christmas Boxes		<u>126,153</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>126,153</u>	<u>139,771</u>
Total		<u>143,526</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>143,526</u>	<u>155,876</u>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(40,066)</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(13,825)	-	(13,825)	(63,617)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		165,645	-	165,645	229,262
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>151,820</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>151,820</u></u>	<u><u>165,645</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet

31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	9	-	-	-	4,838
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	26,849	-	26,849	27,711
Cash at bank		127,771	-	127,771	135,082
		<u>154,620</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>154,620</u>	<u>162,793</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(2,800)	-	(2,800)	(1,986)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>151,820</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151,820</u>	<u>160,807</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>151,820</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151,820</u>	<u>165,645</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>151,820</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151,820</u>	<u>165,645</u>
FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund				151,820	165,645
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>151,820</u>	<u>165,645</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 30 September 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Colonel (Retd) S R Sharman - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at their fair value, in accordance with the SORP.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from sponsorship of the Christmas boxes is recognised in the period to which it relates.

Donations are recognised when received. Donations in the form of gifts in kind are recognised as income when distributed, or when the service is received, with an equivalent amount being included as expenditure. Gifts in kind are valued at an estimate of the market value the charity would have to pay for an equivalent item or service.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Charitable expenditure relates to the cost of the Christmas boxes and related support costs. Support costs includes expenditure on management and administration of the charity including trustees' expenses and the independent examiner's fees.

The cost of raising funds includes expenditure on social media, fundraising activities and investment management costs.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in net gains/(losses) in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or the fair value can otherwise be measured reliably.

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised as expenditure.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations	127,753	128,170

Donations include £12,000 (2022: £3,000) in respect of donated services. The equivalent expenditure is included as fundraising expenditure.

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income from listed investments	-	3,440
Income from unlisted investments	-	605
Bank interest	1,948	110
	1,948	4,155

4. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2023	2022
	£	£
Outsourced social media and fundraising support	12,000	12,000
Website costs	517	324
Fundraising events	3,017	3,698
Travelling expenses	1,822	-
	17,356	16,022

Investment management costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Portfolio management	17	83
	17,373	16,105

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 6) £	Totals £
Christmas Boxes	124,042	2,111	126,153

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Charity running costs £
Christmas Boxes	2,111

Support costs include £500 payable to the independent examiner in respect of the independent examination (2022: £500) and £900 (2022: £900) for other services.

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2023 nor for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Trustees' expenses

Three trustees were reimbursed a total of £654 for travel and subsistence expenses incurred whilst carrying out their duties (2022 one trustee was reimbursed a total of £112).

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	128,170	-	128,170
Investment income	4,155	-	4,155
Total	132,325	-	132,325
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	16,105	-	16,105
Charitable activities			
Christmas Boxes	139,771	-	139,771
Total	155,876	-	155,876
Net gains/(losses) on investments	(40,066)	-	(40,066)
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(63,617)	-	(63,617)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	229,262	-	229,262

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	165,645	-	165,645

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Unlisted investments £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 January 2023	4,838
Disposals	(4,838)
At 31 December 2023	-
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2023	-
At 31 December 2022	4,838

Unlisted investments are valued at the recoverable amount of the loan portfolio at the balance sheet date. There were no investment assets outside the UK.

10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	26,849	27,711

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	-	586
Other creditors	2,800	1,400
	2,800	1,986

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	165,645	(13,825)	151,820
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>165,645</u>	<u>(13,825)</u>	<u>151,820</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	129,701	(143,526)	(13,825)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>129,701</u>	<u>(143,526)</u>	<u>(13,825)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	227,977	(63,617)	1,285	165,645
Fair value reserve	1,285	-	(1,285)	-
	<u>229,262</u>	<u>(63,617)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>165,645</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>229,262</u>	<u>(63,617)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>165,645</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	132,325	(155,876)	(40,066)	(63,617)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>132,325</u>	<u>(155,876)</u>	<u>(40,066)</u>	<u>(63,617)</u>

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

As referred to in the trustees' report, the Christmas Boxes were sourced from a Chinese manufacturer, Box, Tray & Giraffe Inc. As the arrangements are not yet in place for the charity to deal direct with the Chinese manufacturer, or to handle the importation of the boxes, the charity was again assisted by an experienced importer, Xpedent UK Limited, for the all-in price of £124,042. Xpedent UK Limited is owned and managed by the adult children of Allan Sims, who was a trustee of the charity throughout the year.

14. PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SERVICES

In common with many charities of a similar size the independent examiner prepares the statutory report and accounts on behalf of the trustees. The trustees are responsible for the accounts of the charity and the trustees review and approve the accounts once these have been prepared on their behalf. The independent examiner also prepares the corporation tax computation and return for the approval of the trustees.