

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 2024
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 2024

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1
Report of the Trustees	2 to 5
Independent Examiner's Report	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9 to 13
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	14

Operation Christmas Box

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

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
Lt Colonel (Retd) N Russell
Ms O N Hyde (appointed 6.6.2025)
Lt Commander (RN) L Martin (appointed 6.6.2025)

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

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 2024. 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

2024 has been a real year of transition from the old trustees to the new, whilst holding dear to the overall 'raison d'être' of the charity. Everyone associated with Operation Christmas Box was shocked with the passing of Alan Simms after 20 plus years of sterling support to the charity. We also bade farewell to Sally Little and Charles Wookey as they both stepped down as trustees. However, and as a direct result of the kindness and generosity of our sponsors, the charity was able to deliver just over 8200 Christmas Boxes to Armed Forces personnel in time for Christmas day 2024. As with previous years the boxes were very well received by personnel on operations and helped to improve their morale whilst away from their friends, family and loved ones.

Several key improvements were made this year, notably around the finances for the charity. The main bank accounts were rationalised, and a new overseas money transfer account was set up to improve the security and speed of payments to our overseas suppliers. We used the services of a qualified bookkeeper to help ensure we met our responsibilities with regards both VAT and the submission of our annual accounts. We also sought new sponsors to try and provide longer term financial security. We registered for and received an EORI number for Operation Christmas Box to help with the direct import of goods, and we signed an MOU with PJHQ staff to ensure a clear division of responsibilities were understood between the charity trustees and central armed forces staffs. As a Board of Trustees, we also better understood the true extent of the work carried out by the previous trustees and realised that in 2025 we would need to seek out more trustees to support the charity, particularly with social media, invoicing sponsors, JustGiving, and arranging and running the annual dinner for sponsors.

This year we received sponsorship from The Nuffield Trust, The Gosling Foundation, Kilfrost, Salesforce, MBNA, The Hive 40th Anniversary, The Fleet Air Arm Association, and several smaller donations via JustGiving. As can be seen from the published accounts, as a result of this sponsorship, delivery of the 2025 boxes is assured, and a solid start has already been made on our 2026 requirements.

We used the same supplier for the boxes and contents, Box, Tray & Giraffe Inc, ably supported by the same quality control checks provided via SGS services. Shipping was arranged through Box, Tray & Giraffe Inc, and UK importation was handled by Denholm Good Logistics. Once again, the staffs at BFPO delivered the actual boxes to the necessary operational military locations worldwide based on the requirements provided via PJHQ staffs.

Key events this year were the very successful charity golf day kindly lead by Salesforce, the AGM in June, and the Sponsors Christmas lunch in December, held at the RAF Club London, and a 1960 kms charity bike ride across Italy and France.

Whilst 2024 proved to be a year of steep learning for the new trustees, overall it was a success. Thanks again must go to Sally Little and Charles Wookey, who always made themselves available when advice was needed, to ensure that success.

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).

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves and investments

The charity operates on a year by year basis, looking two years ahead, 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 cost of the boxes for the following year. This has formed the basis of the charity's funding/sponsorship strategy for the last two years. As such it has been well received by potential sponsors, who can easily understand the charity's requirements to provide approximately 8,500 boxes per year at £20 per box, including shipping. This approach has ensured OCB is now well placed to service the 2026 boxes.

The charity's reserves as at the balance sheet date are roughly equivalent to annual running costs, including the costs of the boxes, for one year.

Given the level of reserves held the trustees consider that it continues to be appropriate to hold these as cash.

FUTURE PLANS

The new approach to sponsorship has enabled sponsors to be targeted to provide specific funding to meet any projected shortfall in future funds. Sponsors have indicated that they welcome this approach as it is clear exactly how many boxes they are funding and against a known delta. The decision not to date stamp the boxes has enabled over 500 boxes from 2023 to be carried forward to meet the 2024 requirement, thus reducing the 2024 costings, and this approach will be followed in future years.

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.

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.

Operation Christmas Box

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

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 8 October 2025 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 2024.

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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West Sussex
PO19 7XS

17 October 2025

Operation Christmas Box

Statement of Financial Activities

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	116,565	-	116,565	127,753
Investment income	3	2,352	-	2,352	1,948
Total		<u>118,917</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>118,917</u>	<u>129,701</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	4	3,377	-	3,377	17,373
Charitable activities	5				
Christmas Boxes		<u>132,439</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>132,439</u>	<u>126,153</u>
Total		<u>135,816</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>135,816</u>	<u>143,526</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(16,899)	-	(16,899)	(13,825)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		151,820	-	151,820	165,645
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>134,921</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>134,921</u></u>	<u><u>151,820</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet

31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	9	-	-	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	680	-	680	26,849
Cash at bank		135,741	-	135,741	127,771
		<u>136,421</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>136,421</u>	<u>154,620</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	(1,500)	-	(1,500)	(2,800)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>134,921</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>134,921</u>	<u>151,820</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>134,921</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>134,921</u>	<u>151,820</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>134,921</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>134,921</u>	<u>151,820</u>
FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund				134,921	151,820
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>134,921</u>	<u>151,820</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 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 8 October 2025 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

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	<u>116,565</u>	<u>127,753</u>

Donations in the prior year included £12,000 in respect of donated services. The equivalent expenditure was included as fundraising expenditure.

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank interest	<u>2,352</u>	<u>1,948</u>

4. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2024	2023
	£	£
Outsourced social media and fundraising support	-	12,000
Website costs	1,121	517
Fundraising events	547	3,017
Travelling expenses	1,709	1,822
	<u>3,377</u>	<u>17,356</u>

Investment management costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Portfolio management	-	17
	<u>-</u>	<u>17</u>
Aggregate amounts	<u>3,377</u>	<u>17,373</u>

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 6) £	Totals £
Christmas Boxes	<u>129,838</u>	<u>2,601</u>	<u>132,439</u>

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Charity running costs £
Christmas Boxes	2,601
	<u>2,601</u>

Support costs include £575 payable to the independent examiner in respect of the independent examination (2023: £500) and £985 (2023: £900) for other services.

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Trustees' expenses

Three trustees were reimbursed a total of £433 for travel and subsistence expenses incurred whilst carrying out their duties (2023 three trustees were reimbursed a total of £654).

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	127,753	-	127,753
Investment income	1,948	-	1,948
Total	<u>129,701</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>129,701</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	17,373	-	17,373
Charitable activities			
Christmas Boxes	126,153	-	126,153
Total	<u>143,526</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>143,526</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(13,825)	-	(13,825)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	165,645	-	165,645
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>151,820</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151,820</u>

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

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

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	680	26,849
	<hr/>	<hr/>

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	1,500	2,800
	<hr/>	<hr/>

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	151,820	(16,899)	134,921
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	151,820	(16,899)	134,921
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	118,917	(135,816)	(16,899)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	118,917	(135,816)	(16,899)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for 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>

Comparative 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>

13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2024.

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 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	116,565	127,753
Investment income		
Bank interest	2,352	1,948
Total incoming resources	118,917	129,701
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Outsourced social media and fundraising support	-	12,000
Website costs	1,121	517
Fundraising events	547	3,017
Travelling expenses	1,709	1,822
	3,377	17,356
Investment management costs		
Portfolio management	-	17
Charitable activities		
Cost of Christmas boxes	129,838	124,042
Support costs		
Charity running costs		
Insurance	112	112
Postage and stationery	20	6
Sundries	359	593
Bookkeeping	550	-
Accountancy fees	985	900
Independent examination	575	500
	2,601	2,111
Total resources expended	135,816	143,526
Net expenditure	(16,899)	(13,825)