

# THE BELARUS FUND

England & Wales · Charity number 1116762

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2006-11-13

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

## Contact

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**Address** 89 Overdale Road  
Romiley  
Stockport  
SK6 3JB

**Phone** 01614946736

**Email** [alan.bridgewater1@ntlworld.com](mailto:alan.bridgewater1@ntlworld.com)

**Website** [www.thebelarusfund.org](http://www.thebelarusfund.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE "WHITE FLOWER" CHARITY BASED IN BELARUS (REGISTRATION NO 01152 AT THE JUSTICE MINISTRY IN BELARUS) THIS WORK WILL PROVIDE RELIEF AND AID TO CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE, ADULTS, OLDER PEOPLE, PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS, AND PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES AND OR PHYSICAL DISABILITIES LIVING IN BELARUS.

**Activities:** Fundraising Sponsorship seeking Researching, selecting, funding, monitoring and evaluating projects in Belarus Projects include work with babies, children, adolescents, foster families, people with physical and mental disabilities, service providing organisations and support programmes for older people and families.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin

## Geography

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- **Area of benefit:** BELARUS.
- Belarus

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-05	£33,924	£35,725	-	-
2024-04-05	£48,511	£50,682	-	-
2023-04-05	£38,450	£35,123	-	-
2022-04-05	£34,474	£44,100	-	-
2021-04-05	£39,747	£29,175	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
<b>CAROL HARTLEY</b>	Chair	2006-11-13
ALAN BRIDGEWATER		2006-11-13
BRENDA MARY STOPFORD		2009-10-22
JANET FRANCES BRIDGEWATER		2006-11-13
JOAN MILLER		2013-07-15
Lorna Gay Dean		2023-04-12
Paul Kenneth Dean		2017-02-03

**THE BELARUS FUND**

England & Wales - Charity number 1116762

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# Accounts

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The Belarus Fund  
89 Overdale Road  
Romiley  
Stockport  
Cheshire  
SK6 3JB  
0161 494 6736  
email : [alan.bridgewater1@ntlworld.com](mailto:alan.bridgewater1@ntlworld.com)  
[www.thebelarusfund.org](http://www.thebelarusfund.org)

The Belarus Fund  
Registered Charity No.  
1116762  
Supporting victims of  
Chernobyl in Belarus

In Partnership with



The White  
Flower Charity

## **Trustees Annual Report 2024-2025**

### **Introduction.**

The charity has experienced a year of continued success in funding projects and the support scheme in Belarus. However, there is continued frustration at not being able to see the beneficiaries in Belarus itself. We continue to adhere to Foreign and Commonwealth advice not to travel to Belarus. Our key people in Belarus are encountering increasing bureaucracy in obtaining travel documents and restrictions on where they are able to travel to.

We continue to be reliant on our team of local resident volunteers in Belarus without whom the charity could not function. Our focus remains upon the support scheme and existing projects. We continue to carefully monitor these and they are subject to scrutiny by the teams in Belarus and the trustees here in the UK. Any additional requests are carefully assessed for cost and potential impact.

Sadly, the issues around sanctions and conflict mean and show little or no sign of improving. The folks in Belarus still regularly ask when their English friends are coming to see them. Their resilience has to be admired!

### **Communication.**

We are grateful that we are able to keep in regular contact with friends and workers in Belarus. Zoom, WhatsApp, emails and Skype (soon to become Microsoft Teams) continue to be very effective in keeping in contact with the volunteers working in Belarus. We are able to consult, provide directives and plans for the charity work and to receive feedback on progress and how things are working out for the recipients of the resources. This acts a source of encouragement for the charity folks here in the UK.

### **Carrying out the work of the charity.**

Nothing has changed in relation to visiting Belarus as to do so would go against FCO advice with regard to safety and issues around insurance as well as security. Our contact with Belarus continues and we are seeking safe ways to meet with our colleagues from

Belarus in a third nation (Poland, Lithuania, for example). We remain in regular contact with the folks in Belarus.

The focus of our discussions are:

- Reviewing Projects
- Discussing fundraising
- Receiving feedback on what is happening
- Talking about when visits to Belarus can recommence
- Monitoring the finances of the charity
- Regulatory requirements
- How to achieve best practice
- Planning for the future

The quarterly plans, identifying what funds are to be allocated and where, are working well.

Doing these things have enabled us to achieve the objectives of the charity. We remain in awe for the enthusiasm, commitment and dedication of the folks in Belarus. Their resilience in these difficult times continues to amaze us. This serves as an inspiration for the UK based charity work.

### **Objectives of the charity.**

#### **To employ a variety of fundraising methods to achieve a minimum target of £20,000**

The actual amount raised was £33,923.64 with expenditure of £35,724.91, the difference was met from reserves. We will continue with the existing target as a matter of expediency. The charity benefitted from a legacy and a number of Large one-off donations which cannot be guaranteed in the future.

The charity income enables it to continue the work in Belarus along with some small one-off projects. This has become possible because of a few one-off larger donations.

The main source of income remains individual supporters.

The people in Belarus continually thank God for the generosity of all the donors in the UK especially since the conflict continues in their neighbouring country, Ukraine.

#### **To recruit volunteer helpers for the work of the charity in the UK**

We have been unable to recruit new volunteers but despite existing volunteers aging and health issues, we are still able to run the charity efficiently and effectively.

#### **To identify appropriate projects in Belarus**

Our main projects are through the Support Scheme. However, we have been able to identify needs that have been one-off in nature and within the objectives of the charity.

#### **To liaise with the White Flower charity in Belarus through visits and electronic communication.**

Our liaison has been via electronic means although it is hoped to meet with their representative face to face in the future, when it becomes possible for them to travel.

**To transfer funds to Belarus to finance identified projects agreed by the trustees.**

The present method of getting funds to Belarus is working well, but bank fees continue to be incurred at a rate of about 3%.

**To supervise projects working with children, adults, people with disabilities and older people in Belarus.**

The trustees can only supervise projects through the volunteers in Belarus. The work continues, carried out by our colleagues and volunteers in Belarus, who continue to keep us fully informed. The work is supervised and monitored by Oleg and Nicolai. The safety and wellbeing of these folks remains of paramount importance

**To operate appropriate administration systems and reporting mechanisms to ensure the proper deployment of resources and the proper running of the charity.**

The systems in place are robust and working well.

**To liaise with other charities and funders where appropriate.**

Our relationship with our American partner\* remains good and, jointly, we continue to finance some provision for specific small projects.

**To report activities to the Charity Commission.**

This is done through the trustees' report and Annual Return to the Charity Commission.

**To operate appropriate financial systems.**

The financial systems of the charity are still in place and are transparent and robust. Detail expenditure is recorded electronically and in a bank statement file. Expenditure is monitored at the end of each month, thus enabling the charity to remain in credit. These record in detail the income and expenditure of the charity, gift aiding and small donations gift aiding. A copy of the balance sheet for 2024-2025 accompanies this report. We do not spend money we have not already raised. Should a shortfall arise, there is an arrangement for an interest-free short-term loan.

**Public Benefit Statement.**

Much of the work done by the charity is ongoing and is listed below:-

1. The White Flower charity continues to work as our partner in Belarus, serving as the vital link to the network of projects around Belarus.
2. The support of an architect, who is a trustee of the charity, to assist a church to further develop the site of the church which has been successfully renovated. The additions will enable more activities and facilities to be available on site.
3. The Abandoned Babies Home continues to receive funding for prioritised needs and welcomes our continuing involvement.
4. Continued funding of individual people and families on the support scheme receiving monthly monies from UK sponsors and general fundraising. Some families receive an additional support amount because of the complex needs within the family
5. Support for outreach work done by the HOS Pentecostal Church in asylums. They also undertake camps for children at special times of the year, for example, at Christmas. They

selflessly give of their own time and it is a privilege to be able to support this important work.

6. Family food parcels and medicines in the Grodno region. These are distributed in the "Forgotten Villages" in isolated locations in the border regions with Poland.
7. Art and Craft materials for young women to earn a living. Life is difficult for these sisters as their health continues to deteriorate.
8. Christmas gifts for children in an abandoned babies' home.
9. Christmas programs for families.
10. Christmas gifts for poor families and children.
13. Gifts for elderly people living alone.
14. Firewood for families on the support scheme.
15. Outreach work by the church in Grodno (social and material support)
16. Support for countering domestic violence.
17. Support for an elderly person's social group.
18. Travel costs to enable visits to ex-prisoners detained in WWII.
19. Incontinence supplies for bedridden people.
20. Backpacks and educational materials for children from poor families.
21. Financial support for one and a half days per week for the Project Manager in Belarus, and Director in Belarus for half a day per week. All other workers are volunteers.
22. Special food for Lisa with PKU. Also partnered with DCHA\*.
23. Purchase of medicines.
24. Additional support for people with Covid.
25. Support for Ukrainian refugees arriving in Belarus.
26. Material costs improving sanitation and clean water supply.
27. Further corrective surgery and treatment for Varvara funded by Sisters of St. Joseph of the Annunciation. This took place at a specialist hospital in Austria.

Throughout this year, we have again been consolidating the work of the charity, so most of the public benefit is still a continuation of what the charity has already been doing. The needs being met are mostly long term in nature. Any new approaches in Belarus are being assessed by our colleagues there. However, meeting these needs is constrained by the resources we can get to the workers in Belarus.

We continue to work to ensure compliance with the requirements of GDPR and to operate within the law. The charity still does not directly approach people for funds, but rather relies up giving information and then following up where interest is expressed. This has been our strategy throughout and has proved successful.

The work of the charity continues and even though it has lost the benefit of face-to-face interaction with the beneficiaries. Fortunately, technology continues to enable forms of personal contact (email, Zoom, Skype and WhatsApp) with the project manager and Director. This has been vital to the fulfilment of our purposes. Being able to meet them outside the country would be of great importance and benefit, but still remains second best to in-country visits.

We anticipate that 2025-26 will be another challenging year as we cope with the restrictions forced upon us by not being able to travel to Belarus. Also, the geopolitical situation resulting from the war in Ukraine remains a major concern. We are prepared to meet these challenges and look forward to when we can reinstate our visits to Belarus and have first-hand experience of the impact of the work of the charity.

It may seem that the work of the charity is somewhat static but in fact dynamic processes are in action and there is development within the boundaries and parameters that the charity has established. The work of the charity is reviewed at Trustee meetings and other regular contact between those who are charged with the day-to-day responsibilities. These procedures are proving effective for now.

We remain extremely grateful for the wonderful generosity of our supporters, without whom the work of the charity could not continue

On behalf of the Trustees and with heartfelt thanks,  
Alan Bridgewater  
Charity Secretary, Treasurer and Trustee  
August 2025.

\*Direct Connect Humanitarian Aid a USA based charity.

**BELARUS FUND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FROM 6th APRIL 2024 TO 5th APRIL 2025**

**Current Account**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>Sterling</b>
		To Belarus via ATM	<b>£35,724.91</b>
Donations Gift Aided	<b>£14,050.00</b>		
Non Gift Aid Donations	<b>£19,823.09</b>		
GASDS donations	<b>£50.00</b>		
Interest	<b>£0.55</b>		
<b>Totals</b>	<b><u>£33,923.64</u></b>		

		<b>Total Spend</b>	<b><u>£35,724.91</u></b>
<b>Deposit Accounts on 5th April 2024</b>			
<u>Barclays</u>	<b>£53.92</b>		
Halifax B Ac	<b>£7,000.00</b>		
		<b>Balance at 6th April 2024</b>	<b>£7,849.01</b>
		<b>Balance at 5th April 2025</b>	<b>£6,047.74</b>
		<b>Money Withdrawn</b>	<b><u>£35,724.91</u></b>

**Deposit Accounts on 5th April 2025**

Barclays	<b>£4.47</b>		
<b>B. Account</b>			
Halifax	<b>£5,000.00</b>		
		<b>Total raised</b>	<b><u>£33,923.64</u></b>
		<b>Total Balance 5th April 2025</b>	<b>£6,047.74</b>
		<b>Total Balance 6th April 2024</b>	<b>£7,849.01</b>

## The Belarus Fund

Registered Charity 1116762

### Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Belarus Fund

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025 which are set out on the Belarus Fund Statement of Accounts from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024 to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; nor

(2) which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

The accounts and financial statement, as presented, represent a true and accurate record of the charity's account.

Name: Susan Margaret Selby

Profession: Retired Pharmacist / Store Manager for Boots the Chemist

Address: 87, Overdale Rd, Romiley, Stockport. Cheshire SK6 3JB

Signature:



Date: 12.11.2025

**THE BELARUS FUND**

England & Wales - Charity number 1116762

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# Accounts

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The Belarus Fund  
89 Overdale Road  
Romiley  
Stockport  
Cheshire  
SK6 3JB  
0161 494 6736  
email : [alan.bridgewater1@ntlworld.com](mailto:alan.bridgewater1@ntlworld.com)  
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The Belarus Fund  
Registered Charity No.  
1116762  
Supporting victims of  
Chernobyl in Belarus

In Partnership with



The White  
Flower Charity

## **Trustees Annual Report 2023-2024**

### **Introduction.**

This year has been one of success and frustration. The success comes from loyal continued support and being able to complete our mission in Belarus with both families and organisations. It has been a time of sorrow and joy. The sorrow comes from the death of two dear people who have been beneficiaries of the charity's work over a number of years. Denis and Maya were both dear to our hearts and will be missed by their families, their supporters and the charity team in the UK. There has been joy in hearing the good news coming from our volunteers and workers in Belarus

Our grateful thanks go to our team of local resident volunteers in Belarus without whom the charity could not function. This work remains focussed upon the support scheme and existing projects. All of which are carefully monitored and subject to scrutiny by the teams in Belarus and the trustees here in the UK.

The continuing issues around sanctions and conflict mean we are advised not to visit Belarus and so must use other means to keep in touch. The folks in Belarus regularly ask when their English friends are coming to see them. They are amazed that people from so far away care about them and continue to do so despite all that is happening in the world.

### **Communication.**

Zoom, WhatsApp, emails and Skype continue to be very effective in keeping in contact with the volunteers working in Belarus. We are able to consult, provide directives and plans for the charity work and to receive feedback on progress and how things are working out for the recipients of the resources. This acts a source of encouragement for the charity folks here in the UK.

### **Carrying out the work of the charity.**

Our frustration at not been able to visit Belarus during the year continues. Our good friends, Nicolai and Oleg, our co-workers (in Belarus), have continued

managing the work of the charity along with the team of volunteers in Belarus. Again, we have been able to have one face-to-face meeting with Nicolai and Oleg when they were able to travel to spend time with some of the trustees.

Our discussions throughout the year have focussed on:

- Reviewing Projects
- Discussing fundraising
- Receiving feedback on what is happening
- Talking about when visits to Belarus can recommence
- Monitoring the finances of the charity
- Regulatory requirements
- How to achieve best practice
- Planning for the future

A quarterly plan is created identifying what funds are to be allocated and where.

Doing these things have enabled us to achieve the objectives of the charity. However, paramount has been the enthusiasm, commitment and dedication of the folks in Belarus. Their resilience in these difficult times has been amazing. This serves as an inspiration for the UK based charity work.

### **Objectives of the charity.**

#### **To employ a variety of fundraising methods to achieve a target of £20,000**

The actual amount raised was £48,511.58. We will continue with the existing target as a matter of expediency. The charity benefitted from a legacy and a number of Large one-off donations.

We have lost a small number of donors but have managed to maintain the income of the charity, sufficient to fulfil its commitments.

Some limited additional fundraising is planned but our main source of income remains individual supporters.

The people in Belarus continually thank God for the generosity of all the donors in the UK.

#### **To recruit volunteer helpers for the work of the charity in the UK**

The number of volunteers remains the same and they are able to carry out the work of the charity. Everyone who is part of the charity, in the UK, is a volunteer, giving their finances, time and energy freely. The situation in Ukraine and Russian political alliances mean people are less likely to want to become involved.

#### **To identify appropriate projects in Belarus**

It still remains the case that we do not feel it is appropriate to take on new projects but do receive information from Belarus which we hope to be able to consider in the future, within budgetary constraints.

**To liaise with the White Flower charity in Belarus through visits and electronic communication.**

Visits to Belarus are not advised by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Electronic communication is our most effective means of communicating.

**To transfer funds to Belarus to finance identified projects agreed by the trustees.**

The necessary funds have been securely transferred to Belarus but bank fees continue to be incurred at a rate of about 3%.

**To supervise projects working with children, adults, people with disabilities and older people in Belarus.**

The work has continued, carried out by our colleagues and volunteers in Belarus, who continue to keep us fully informed. The work is supervised and monitored by Oleg and Nicolai. The safety and wellbeing of these folks remains of paramount importance

**To operate appropriate administration systems and reporting mechanisms to ensure the proper deployment of resources and the proper running of the charity.**

The administrative systems and reporting mechanisms remain fit for purpose and enable the running of the charity and keep trustees, UK supporters and the Charity Commission informed.

**To liaise with other charities and funders where appropriate.**

We continue to work with our American partner\* and, jointly, we have financed some provision for specific small projects.

**To report activities to the Charity Commission.**

This is done through the trustees' report and Annual Return to the Charity Commission.

**To operate appropriate financial systems.**

The financial systems of the charity are transparent and robust. Detail expenditure is recorded electronically and in a bank statement file. Expenditure is monitored at the end of each month, thus enabling the charity to remain in credit. These records in detail the income and expenditure of the charity, gift aiding and small donations gift aiding. A copy of the balance sheet for 2023-2024 accompanies this report. We do not spend money we have not already raised. Should a shortfall arise, there is an arrangement for an interest-free short-term loan.

**Public Benefit Statement.**

Much of the work done by the charity is ongoing and is listed below:-

1. The White Flower charity continues to work as our partner in Belarus, serving as the vital link to the network of projects around Belarus.
2. The ongoing support of an architect, who is a trustee of the charity, to assist a church to further develop the site of the church which has been successfully renovated. The additions will enable more activities and facilities to be available on site.

3. The Abandoned Babies Home continues to receive funding for prioritised needs and welcomes our continuing involvement.
4. Continued funding of individual people and families on the support scheme receiving monthly monies from UK sponsors and general fundraising. Some families receive an additional support amount because of the complex needs within the family
5. Support for outreach work done by the HOS Pentecostal Church in asylums. They also undertake camps for children at special times of the year, for example, at Christmas. They selflessly give of their own time and it is a privilege to be able to support this important work.
6. Family food parcels and medicines in the Grodno region. These are distributed in the "Forgotten Villages" in isolated locations in the border regions with Poland.
7. Art and Craft materials for young women to earn a living. Life is difficult for these sisters as their health continues to deteriorate. The second sister has had the second hip replaced. The cost of these hip replacements has been shared with DCHA\* our American charity partner.
8. Christmas gifts for children in an abandoned babies' home.
9. Christmas programs for families.
10. Christmas gifts for poor families and children.
13. Gifts for elderly people living alone.
14. Firewood for families on the support scheme.
15. Outreach work by the church in Grodno (social and material support)
16. Support for countering domestic violence.
17. Support for an elderly person's social group.
18. Travel costs to enable visits to ex-prisoners detained in WWII.
19. Incontinence supplies for bedridden people.
20. Backpacks and educational materials for children from poor families.
21. Financial support for one and a half days per week for the Project Manager in Belarus, and Director in Belarus for half a day per week. All other workers are volunteers.
22. Education programme for Miron with partner DCHA\*.
23. Special food for Lisa with PKU. Also partnered with DCHA\*.
24. Purchase of medicines.
25. Additional support for people with Covid.
26. Support for Ukrainian refugees arriving in Belarus.
27. Material costs for the digging of village wells.
28. Corrective surgery and treatment for Varvara funded by Sisters of St. Joseph of the Annunciation. This took place at a specialist hospital in Austria.

Throughout this year, we have again been consolidating the work of the charity, so most of the public benefit is still a continuation of what the charity has already been doing. The needs being met are mostly long term in nature. Any new approaches in Belarus are being assessed by our colleagues there. However, meeting these needs is constrained by the resources we can get to the workers in Belarus.

We continue to work to ensure compliance with the requirements of GDPR and to operate within the law. The charity still does not directly approach people for funds, but rather relies up giving information and then following up where interest is expressed. This has been our strategy throughout and has proved successful.

The work of the charity continues but has lost the benefit of face-to-face interaction with the beneficiaries. Fortunately, technology continues to enable forms of personal contact (email, Zoom, Skype and WhatsApp) with the project manager and Director.

This has been vital to the fulfilment of our purposes. Being able to meet them outside the country has been of great importance and benefit, but still remains second best to in-country visits.

We anticipate that 2024-25 will be another challenging year as we cope with the restrictions forced upon us by not being able to travel to Belarus. Also, the geopolitical situation resulting from the war in Ukraine continues to be a major concern. We are prepared to meet these challenges and look forward to when we can reinstate our visits to Belarus and have first-hand experience of the impact of the work of the charity.

We remain extremely grateful for the wonderful generosity of our supporters, without whom the work of the charity could not continue

On behalf of the Trustees and with heartfelt thanks,  
Alan Bridgewater  
Charity Secretary, Treasurer and  
Trustee  
June 2024.

\*Direct Connect Humanitarian Aid a USA based charity.

**BELARUS FUND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FROM 6th APRIL 2023 TO 5th APRIL 2024**

**Current Account**

	Total	<b>PAYMENTS</b>	
Donations Gift Aided	£17,035.13	To Belarus	
Non Gift Aid Donations	£30,486.05	Travel and Accommodation	
GASDS donations	£942.84	Currency to Belarus A	
Interest	£47.46	Austria Klinik for Varvara	
		Back brace for Yana	
		Currency to Belarus B	
<b>Totals</b>	<b><u>£48,511.48</u></b>		
<b>Contra</b>	<b>£7,738.74 paid then refunded</b>	<b>Total Spend</b>	
		<b>Balance at 6th April 2023</b>	<b>£1,184.80</b>
		<b>Balance at 5th April 2024</b>	<b>£795.09</b>
		<b>Money Withdrawn</b>	<b><u>£43,682.31</u></b>
<b><u>Deposit Accounts on 5th April 2024</u></b>			
<b>Barclays</b>	<b><u>£53.92</u></b>		
<b>B. Account</b>			
<b>Halifax</b>	<b>£7,000.00</b>		
		<b>Total raised</b>	<b><u>£48,511.48</u></b>

Sterling

£30,508.28

£1,309.74

£12,993.33

£4,439.87

£62.99

£1,368.10

**£50,682.31**

## The Belarus Fund

Registered Charity 1116762

### Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Belarus Fund

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024, which are set out on the Belarus Fund Statement of Accounts from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023 to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

#### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

#### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; nor

(2) which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

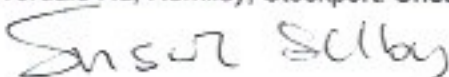
The accounts and financial statement, as presented, represent a true and accurate record of the charity's account.

Name: Susan Margaret Selby

Profession: Retired Pharmacist / Store Manager for Boots the Chemist

Address: 87, Overdale Rd, Romiley, Stockport. Cheshire SK6 3JB.

Signature:



Date:

12.12.2024.

**THE BELARUS FUND**

England & Wales - Charity number 1116762

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# Accounts

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*The Belarus Fund*  
89 Overdale Road  
Romiley  
Stockport  
Cheshire  
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0161 494 6736  
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*The Belarus Fund*  
Registered Charity No.  
1116762  
Supporting victims of  
Chernobyl in Belarus

*In Partnership with*



*The White Flower  
Charity*

## **Trustees Annual Report 2022-2023**

### **Introduction.**

This year has been a challenging one for the charity, both for fundraising and for delivering the services of the charity. The fundraising activities have been limited by the ongoing effects of the of the Covid pandemic, despite the lifting of lockdown rules and the opening up of society. The ongoing situation in Eastern Europe and the resulting uncertainties have meant continuing to operate remotely as far as the UK is concerned, but in Belarus the work has continued.

Thanks to our team resident in Belarus, the work of the charity has been continuing. This work is focussed upon the support scheme and existing projects. We have been unable to undertake additional projects as we cannot visit to vet the potential projects. We feel that this approach secures the resources of the charity and ensures that the support given is verifiable and robust. The work of the teams in Belarus ensures that this continues to be the case.

### **Communication.**

Zoom, WhatsApp, emails and Skype have proved to be very effective in Keeping in contact with the volunteers working in Belarus. We are able to provide directives and plans for the charity work and to receive feedback on progress and how things are working out for the recipients of resources.

### **Carrying out the work of the charity.**

Still, it remains most frustrating that we have not been able to visit Belarus during the year. We continue receiving feedback through Nicolai and Oleg (in Belarus) that the folks there have missed our visits and regularly ask when they will see their English friends. We have been able to have two face to face meetings, one with Nicolai and one with Oleg when they were able to travel to spend time with us.

Throughout the year the work has continued:

- Reviewing Projects

- Discussing fundraising
- Receiving feedback on what is happening
- Talking about when visits to Belarus can recommence
- Monitoring the finances of the charity
- Regulatory requirements
- How to achieve best practice
- Planning for the future

Doing these things have enabled us to achieve the objectives of the charity. However, paramount has been the enthusiasm, commitment and dedication of the folks in Belarus. Their resilience in these difficult times has been amazing.

### **Objectives of the charity.**

**To employ a variety of fundraising methods to achieve a target of £20,000** The actual amount raised was £38,450.35. This involved a single donation of £10,000. We will continue with the existing target as a matter of expediency.

The people in Belarus continually thank God for the generosity of all the donors in the UK.

### **To recruit volunteer helpers for the work of the charity in the UK**

We are able to function with the current number of volunteers but are aware of the age profile of our volunteers is increasing and the need for involving younger people. Sadly, we have been unable to increase the numbers.

### **To identify appropriate projects in Belarus**

Under the present circumstances, we do not feel it is appropriate to take on new projects but do receive information from Belarus which we hope to be able to consider in the future.

### **To liaise with the White Flower charity in Belarus through visits and electronic communication.**

Visits to Belarus are not advised by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Electronic communication is our most effective means of communicating.

### **To transfer funds to Belarus to finance identified projects agreed by the trustees.**

The necessary funds have been securely transferred to Belarus but bank fees have been incurred.

### **To supervise projects working with children, adults, people with disabilities and older people in Belarus.**

The work has continued, carried out by our colleagues and volunteers in Belarus, who continue to keep us fully informed. The safety and wellbeing of these folks remains of paramount importance

### **To operate appropriate administration systems and reporting mechanisms to ensure the proper deployment of resources and the proper running of the charity.**

The administrative systems and reporting mechanisms remain fit for purpose and enable the running of the charity and keep trustees and UK supporters informed.

**To liaise with other charities and funders where appropriate.**

We continue to work with our American partners\* and, jointly, we have financed some provision for specific small projects

**To report activities to the Charity Commission.**

This is done through the trustees' report and Annual Return to the Charity Commission.

**To operate appropriate financial systems.**

The financial systems of the charity are transparent and robust. Detail expenditure is recorded electronically and in a bank statement file. Expenditure is monitored at the end of each month, thus enabling the charity to remain in credit. These records in detail the income and expenditure of the charity, gift aiding and small donations gift aiding. A copy of the balance sheet for 2022-2023 accompanies this report. We never spend money we have not already raised.

**Public Benefit Statement.**

Much of the work done by the charity is ongoing and is listed below:-

1. The White Flower charity continues to work as our partner in Belarus, serving as the vital link to the network of projects around Belarus.
2. The ongoing support of an architect, who is a trustee of the charity, to assist a church to convert a derelict building into a church and community centre, at no cost. The church runs a range of community activities and is involving the local community who live around the church building.
3. The Borisov Abandoned Babies Home continues to receive funding for prioritised needs and welcomes our continuing involvement.
4. Continued funding of individual people and families on the support scheme receiving monthly monies from UK sponsors and general fundraising. Some families receive an additional support amount because of the complex needs within the family.
5. Funding of training and education to combat human trafficking.
6. Support for outreach work done by the Hope of Salvation Pentecostal Church in asylums around Minsk. They also undertake camps for children at special times of the year, for example, at Christmas. They selflessly give of their own time and it is a privilege to be able to support this important work.
7. Family food parcels in the Grodno region. These are distributed in the "Forgotten Villages" in isolated locations in the border regions with Poland.
8. Art and Craft materials for young women to earn a living. Life is difficult for these sisters as their health continues to deteriorate. The second sister has had the second hip replaced. The cost of these hip replacements has been shared with DCHA our American charity partner.
9. Christmas gifts for children in an abandoned babies' home.
10. Christmas gifts for children.
11. Christmas programs for families.
12. Christmas gifts for poor families.
13. Gifts for elderly people living alone.
14. Firewood for families on the support scheme.
15. Outreach work by the Grace church in Grodno (social and material support).
16. Support for disabled children in Minsk at Leila's education centre. This is ongoing.

17. Support for anti-human trafficking work.
18. Support for countering domestic violence.
19. Support for an elderly person's social group.
20. Travel costs to enable visits to ex-prisoners detained in WWII.
21. Incontinence supplies for bedridden people.
22. Backpacks and educational materials for children from poor families.
23. Financial support for one day per week for the Project Manager in Belarus, and Director in Belarus for one day per week. All other workers are volunteers.
24. Education programme for Miron with partner DCHA.
25. Special food for Lisa with PKU. Also partnered with DCHA.
26. Purchase of medicines.
27. Additional support for people with Covid.
28. Support for Ukrainian refugees arriving in Belarus.

Throughout this year, we have again been consolidating the work of the charity, so most of the public benefit is still a continuation of what the charity has already been doing. The needs being met are mostly long term in nature. Any new approaches in Belarus are being assessed by our colleagues there. However, meeting these needs is constrained by the resources we can get to the workers in Belarus.

We continue to work to ensure compliance with the requirements of GDPR and to operate within the law. The charity still does not directly approach people for funds, but rather relies up giving information and then following up where interest is expressed. This has been our strategy throughout and has proved successful.

The work of the charity continues but has lost the benefit of face-to-face interaction with the beneficiaries. Fortunately, technology continues to enable forms of personal contact (email, Zoom, Skype and WhatsApp) with the project manager and Director. This has been vital to the fulfilment of our purposes. Being able to meet them outside the country has been of great importance and benefit, but still remains second best to in-country visits.

Sadly, 2023-24 will be another challenging year as we cope with the restrictions forced upon us by not being able to travel to Belarus. Also, the geopolitical situation resulting from the war in Ukraine continues to be a major concern. We are prepared to meet these challenges and look forward to when we can reinstate our visits to Belarus and have first-hand experience of the impact of the work of the charity.

We remain extremely grateful for the wonderful generosity of our supporters, without whom the work of the charity could not continue

On behalf of the Trustees and with heartfelt thanks,  
Alan Bridgewater  
Charity Secretary, Treasurer and Trustee  
July 2023.

\*Direct Connect Humanitarian Aid and Birds of Pray, both USA based charities.

## BELARUS FUND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FROM 6th APRIL 2022 TO 5th APRIL 2023

### Current Account

	Total	PAYMENTS	Sterling
		Sent to Belarus	£33,515.76
Donations Gift Aided	£18,534.84	Flights and Accommodation	£1,607.32
Non Gift Aid Donations	£18,970.00		
GASDS donations	£935.55		
Interest	£10.45		

Contra item Remaining Currency from cancelled visi \$2085

**Totals** **£38,450.84**

**Bank Balance at 6th. April 2022** **£6,568.01**

**Total Spend** **£35,123.08**

	<b>Totals</b>		
	<b>Balance at</b>	<b>5th April 2023</b>	<b>£1,184.80</b>
	<b>Balance at</b>	<b>5th April 2022(less)</b>	<b>£6,568.01</b>

**Money withdrawn** **£35,123.08**

### Deposit Account

**\*Balance** **£8,835.04** **Interest on Bus Acc.** **£10.45**

**Total raised** **£38,450.84**

#### \*Note

Balance April 2022 =£23.87  
 plus interest = £10.45  
 plus money from current account = £15,000  
 minus money to current account =£6198.98

Gives balance of £8835.04

# The Belarus Fund

Registered Charity 1116762

## Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Belarus Fund

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023,, which are set out on the Belarus Fund Statement of Accounts from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; nor

(2) which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

The accounts and financial statement, as presented, represent a true and accurate record of the charity's account.

Name: Susan Margaret Selby

Profession: Retired Pharmacist / Store Manager for Boots the Chemist

Address: 118, Overdale Rd, Romiley, Stockport. Cheshire SK6 3EN.

Signature:



Date: 21.07.2023

**THE BELARUS FUND**

England & Wales - Charity number 1116762

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# Accounts

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*The Belarus Fund*  
89 Overdale Road  
Romiley  
Stockport  
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SK6 3JB  
0161 494 6736  
email: [alan.bridgewater1@ntlworld.com](mailto:alan.bridgewater1@ntlworld.com)  
[www.thebelarusfund.org](http://www.thebelarusfund.org)

*The Belarus Fund*  
Registered Charity No.  
1116762  
Supporting victims of  
Chernobyl in Belarus

*In Partnership with*



*The White Flower  
Charity*

## **Trustees Annual Report 2021-2022**

### **Introduction.**

Following on from the difficulties of 2020-2021 caused by the worldwide Covid pandemic, Covid continues to present issues in most aspects of running the charity. Throughout that year, we evolved strategies which enable the charity to achieve its objectives.

The situation arising from the invasion of Ukraine, a neighbour of Belarus, has served to compound the issues. However, the charity has been able to use the strategies formulated last year to overcome any obstacles and so continue with its work, albeit without being able to visit projects and people on the support scheme.

Support for the work the charity has undertaken, has remained resilient with a few new regular donors and one-off donations. Sadly, active fundraising events of a face-to-face nature have only just become possible in the last few weeks because of Covid restrictions and general concern for the welfare of supporters.

### **Communication.**

Communication remains key to the functioning of our work, with increasing use of Zoom, Skype and emails. These have enabled planning, resourcing, reporting and evaluation of the charity's work on the ground. As well, they have enabled the trustees to fulfil their roles.

### **Carrying out the work of the charity.**

What remains the most frustrating is not being able to visit Belarus during the year. We continue receiving feedback through Nicolai and Oleg (in Belarus) that the folks there have missed our visits and regularly ask when they will see their English friends.

Throughout the year the work has continued:

- Reviewing Projects
- Considering new projects
- Discussing fundraising

- Receiving feedback on what is happening
- Talking about when visits to Belarus can recommence
- Monitoring the finances of the charity
- Regulatory requirements
- How to achieve best practice
- Planning for the future

These are core tasks of the charity in order to meet its objectives. However, it is important to recognise the impact of this work on the lives of those who benefit in Belarus and those who devote their time in that country to those people and what a privilege it is to share that work with them, albeit at a distance at this time.

### **Objectives of the charity.**

**To employ a variety of fundraising methods to achieve a target of £20,000** The actual amount raised was £34,474.88. We are adhering to the target which will enable us to continue with the core of our work. Although the funds raised are well in excess of the target, it does not seem sensible, in light of the current economic climate, to raise that target.

The people in Belarus thank God for the generosity of all the donors in the UK.

### **To recruit volunteer helpers for the work of the charity in the UK**

The number of volunteers has remained stable.

### **To identify appropriate projects in Belarus**

Again, no major additional projects have been undertaken as our colleagues in Belarus are still operating under the Covid-19 restrictions and advice in Belarus. There has been another small increase in the size of the support scheme which remains our largest undertaking.

### **To liaise with the White Flower charity in Belarus through visits and electronic communication.**

The situation remains the same. Travel restrictions have prevented team visits to Belarus. The FCO advice is not to travel to Belarus. Contact has been maintained through the use of Skype, WhatsApp, email and, Zoom. Through the Zoom meetings, we have been able to involve more people and receive more feedback.

We have considered meeting outside of Belarus but the Covid situation and now the situation in Ukraine have meant that this has not been possible. However, it is an option which may become available this next year.

### **To transfer funds to Belarus to finance identified projects agreed by the trustees.**

The necessary funds have been securely transferred to Belarus but bank fees have been incurred.

### **To supervise projects working with children, adults, people with disabilities and older people in Belarus.**

This work has continued, carried out by our colleagues and volunteers in Belarus, who have kept us fully informed. We continue to advise the folks there to minimise physical contact and to follow the government advice within Belarus. We receive regular reports, photographs and videos from Belarus.

**To operate appropriate administration systems and reporting mechanisms to ensure the proper deployment of resources and the proper running of the charity.**

The administrative systems and reporting mechanisms continue to be robust and support the running of the charity and in informing trustees and UK supporters.

**To liaise with other charities and funders where appropriate.**

We have continued our work with our American partners and, jointly, we have financed some provision for specific small projects

**To report activities to the Charity Commission.**

This is done through the trustees' report and Annual Return to the Charity Commission.

**To operate appropriate financial systems.**

The financial systems of the charity are transparent and robust. Detail expenditure is recorded electronically and in a bank statement file. Expenditure is monitored at the end of each month, thus enabling the charity to remain in credit. These records in detail the income and expenditure of the charity, gift aiding and small donations gift aiding. A copy of the balance sheet for 2021-2022 accompanies this report. We never spend money we have not already raised.

**Public Benefit Statement.**

Much of the work done by the charity is ongoing and is listed below:-

1. The White Flower charity continues to work as our partner in Belarus, serving as the vital link to the network of projects around Belarus.
2. The ongoing support of an architect, who is a trustee of the charity, to assist a church to convert a derelict building into a church and community centre, at no cost. The church runs a range of community activities and is involving the local community who live around the church building.
3. The Borisov Abandoned Babies Home continues to receive funding for prioritised needs and welcomes our continuing involvement.
4. Continued funding of individual people and families on the support scheme receiving monthly monies from UK sponsors and general fundraising. Some families receive an additional support amount because of the complex needs within the family.
5. Continued funding for a youth camp for the social development and life skills of young people in danger from drugs and prostitution. Also, to prevent people trafficking.
6. Support for outreach work done by the Hope of Salvation Pentecostal Church in asylums around Minsk. They also undertake camps for children at special times of the year, for example, at Christmas. They selflessly give of their own time and it is a privilege to be able to support this important work.
7. Family food parcels in the Grodno region. These are distributed in the "Forgotten Villages" in isolated locations in the border regions with Poland.
8. Art and Craft materials for young women to earn a living. Life is difficult for these sisters as their health continues to deteriorate. The second sister has had the second hip

replaced. The cost of these hip replacements has been shared with DCHA our American charity partner.

9. Christmas gifts for children in an abandoned babies' home.
10. Christmas gifts for children.
11. Christmas programs for families.
12. Christmas gifts for poor families.
13. Gifts for elderly people living alone.
14. Firewood for families on the support scheme.
15. Outreach work by the Grace church in Grodno (social and material support).
16. Support for disabled children in Minsk at Leila's education centre. This is ongoing.
17. Support for anti-human trafficking work.
18. Support for countering domestic violence.
19. Support for an elderly person's social group.
20. Travel costs to enable visits to ex-prisoners detained in WWII.
21. Incontinence supplies for bedridden people.
22. Hip joints for hip replacement surgery.
23. Medical and therapeutic treatment of young women with severe cerebral palsy.
24. Backpacks and educational materials for children from poor families.
25. Refreshments for asylum social group.
26. Financial support for one day per week for the Project Manager in Belarus, and Director in Belarus for one day per week. All other workers are volunteers.
27. Education programme for Miron with partner DCHA.
28. Special food for Lisa with PKU. Also partnered with DCHA.
29. Purchase of medicines.
30. Additional support for people with Covid.
31. Digging of a water well and the installation of clean water equipment in a village house where two disabled young men and their widowed mother live.
32. A mobile phone for a young woman with cerebral palsy.
33. Educational course for a group in Zhodina.
34. Purchase of a school printer.
35. An MRI scan and treatment.
36. Purchase of a wheelchair.
37. Support for Ukrainian refugees arriving in Belarus.

Throughout this year, we have been consolidating the work of the charity, so most of the public benefit is a continuation of what the charity has already been doing. The needs being met are mostly long term in nature. Any new approaches in Belarus are being assessed by our colleagues there. However, meeting these needs is constrained by the resources available

We continue to work to ensure compliance with the requirements of GDPR and to operate within the law. The charity still does not directly approach people for funds, but rather relies up giving information and then following up where interest is expressed.

The effects of the global Covid-19 pandemic continue to have a significant impact on the work of the charity. The work of the charity continues but has lost the benefit of face-to-face interaction with the beneficiaries. Fortunately, technology has enables forms of personal contact (email, Zoom, Skype and WhatsApp) with the project manager and Director. This has been vital to the fulfilment of our purposes.

2022-23 will be another challenging year as we cope with the restrictions forced upon us by Covid19 and our ability to fundraise and to travel to Belarus. Also, the geopolitical situation around

Belarus throws up a number of challenges of its own. As a result of this year's experiences, we are better prepared to meet these challenges and look forward to when we can reinstate our visits to Belarus and have first-hand experience of the impact of the work of the charity.

On behalf of the Trustees,  
Alan Bridgewater  
Charity Secretary, Treasurer and Trustee April  
2022.

\*DCHA is Direct Connect Humanitarian Aid, a USA based charity

## BELARUS FUND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FR

### Current Account

	Total
Donations Gift Aided	£18,658.00
Non Gift Aid Donations	£14,741.38
GASDS donations	£1,075.50
Contra item Flights paid by Team	£785.02
Contra item* Currency for cancelled visit due to Covid 19	£19,635
<b>Totals</b>	<b><u>£34,474.88</u></b>
<b>Bank Balance at 6th. April 2021</b>	<b>£16,193.13</b>

**Balance at**  
**Balance at**  
**Contra item**

### Deposit Account Balance

**£23.57**

Note \*Trustees to decide on what should happen eg. Convert to sterli

**OM 6th APRIL 2021 TO 5th APRIL 2022**

**PAYMENTS**

Sent to Belarus	Sterling £44,100.00
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<b>Total Spend</b>	<b><u>£44,100.00</u></b>
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**Totals**

5th April 2022	£6,568.01
5th April 2021(less)	£16,193.13
	£785.02
<b>Money withdrawn</b>	<b><u>£44,100.00</u></b>

<b>Interest on Bus Acc.</b>	<b>£0.01</b>
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<b>Total raised</b>	<b><u>£34,474.88</u></b>
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ing or wait until travel is possible.

# The Belarus Fund

Registered Charity 1116762

## Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Belarus Fund

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022, which are set out on the Belarus Fund Statement of Accounts from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; nor

(2) which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

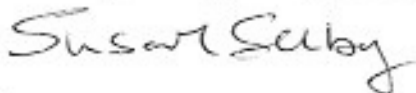
The accounts and financial statement, as presented, represent a true and accurate record of the charity's account.

Name: Susan Margaret Selby

Profession: Retired Pharmacist / Store Manager for Boots the Chemist

Address: 118, Overdale Rd, Romiley, Stockport. Cheshire SK6 3EN.

Signature:



Date: 23.05.2022

**THE BELARUS FUND**

England & Wales - Charity number 1116762

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# Accounts

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*The Belarus Fund*  
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***The Belarus Fund***  
Registered Charity No.  
1116762  
*Supporting victims of  
Chernobyl in Belarus*

*In Partnership with*



*The White Flower  
Charity*

## **Trustees Annual Report 2020-2021**

### **Introduction.**

This year has been the most challenging yet for our charity. We have had to face unique circumstances and evolve different ways of doing the work of the charity. From the outset, we have adapted our approach and enabled the work of the charity to continue uninterrupted and so, despite everything that has happened, we have been successful both here in the United Kingdom and in Belarus.

It is a credit to our colleagues and volunteers in Belarus, the supporters of the charity, and to the volunteer team here in the United Kingdom that the charity has continued to operate and to achieve its goals despite the difficulties created by the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Communication.**

Communication has always been key to the functioning of our work and this year has become even more significant because:

1. The trustees have been unable to meet face to face.
2. It has not been possible for teams to visit Belarus.
3. Planning needed to be done at arm's length.

There have been two Zoom trustee meetings and these have successfully dealt with the business of the charity, enabling matters to be considered and decisions to be made.

Skype and Zoom have been used to maintain contact with our volunteer visitors in Belarus. Through these contacts and the use of email, we have been able to have a two way exchange of information. This has meant that in some respects it was business as usual but conducted in a different way.

### **Carrying out the work of the charity.**

What has been most frustrating is not being able to visit Belarus during the year. We have received feedback through Nicolai and Oleg (in Belarus) that the folks there have missed our visits and are longing for the day when we can safely return.

Nevertheless, the following have continued:

- Reviewing Projects
- Considering new projects
- Discussing fundraising
- Receiving feedback on fundraising and other activities
- Planning visits to Belarus
- Monitoring the finances of the charity
- Regulatory requirements
- How to achieve best practice
- Planning for the future

These represent the core tasks of the charity in order to meet its objectives. However, it is important to recognise the impact of this work on the lives of those who benefit in Belarus and those who devote their time in that country to those people and what a privilege it is to share that work with them, albeit at a distance at this time.

### **Objectives of the charity.**

#### **To employ a variety of fundraising methods to achieve a target of £20,000**

The actual amount raised was £39,746.89. We are adhering to the target of £20,000 as this is what would be needed to keep the support scheme running without funding other projects. This is also in the light of difficulties currently faced in raising funds through events.

Through our regular donors, we are able to exceed the target of £20,000, so we are confident of being able to meet this target in the coming year. However, uncertainty remains.

The people in Belarus thank God for the generosity of all the donors in the UK.

#### **To recruit volunteer helpers for the work of the charity in the UK**

The number of volunteer helpers in the UK has decreased slightly as people have died. The number of people providing financial support has slightly increased. The work of the charity has continued unabated. Covid-19 has had an impact particularly on the fundraising events, most of which have not happened. However, it is worth noting that the number of volunteer helpers in Belarus has been increasing over the last two years.

#### **To identify appropriate projects in Belarus**

No major additional projects have been undertaken as our colleagues in Belarus are operating under the Covid-19 restrictions and advice in Belarus. There has been a small increase in the size of the support scheme which remains our largest undertaking.

#### **To liaise with the White Flower charity in Belarus through visits and electronic communication.**

Travel restrictions have prevented team visits to Belarus. Contact has been maintained through the use of Skype, WhatsApp, email and, most recently, Zoom. Through the Zoom meetings, we have been able to involve more people and receive more feedback.

#### **To transfer funds to Belarus to finance identified projects agreed by the trustees.**

The necessary funds have been transferred to Belarus but bank fees have been incurred.

**To supervise projects working with children, adults, people with disabilities and older people in Belarus.**

This work has continued carried out by our colleagues and volunteers in Belarus, who have kept us fully informed. We have advised the folks there to minimise physical contact and to follow the government advice within Belarus. We receive regular reports, photographs and videos from Belarus.

**To operate appropriate administration systems and reporting mechanisms to ensure the proper deployment of resources and the proper running of the charity.**

The administrative systems and reporting mechanisms are robust and support the running of the charity and in informing trustees who have been unable to meet face to face. Meetings are held online.

**To liaise with other charities and funders where appropriate.**

We have continued our work with our American partners and, jointly, we have financed work eg. Funding special food for Lisa and providing medical help for Lena and Luba.

**To report activities to the Charity Commission.**

This is done through the trustees report and Annual Return to the Charity Commission.

**To operate appropriate financial systems.**

The financial systems of the charity are transparent and robust. Detail expenditure is recorded electronically and in a bank statement file. All receipts for expenditure in Belarus are received by email attachment. Expenditure is monitored at the end of each month, thus enabling the charity to remain in credit. These record in detail the income and expenditure of the charity, gift aiding and small donations gift aiding. A copy of the balance sheet for 2020-21 accompanies this report.

**Public Benefit Statement.**

Much of the work done by the charity is ongoing and is listed below:-

1. The White Flower charity continues to work as our partner in Belarus, serving as the vital link to the network of projects around Belarus.
2. The ongoing support of an architect, who is a trustee of the charity, to assist a church to convert a derelict building into a church and community centre, at no cost. The main church building is now complete. The church runs a range of community activities and is involving the local community who live around the church building.
3. The Borisov Abandoned Babies Home continues to receive funding for prioritised needs and welcomes our continuing involvement.
4. Funding individual people on the support scheme receiving monthly monies from UK sponsors. Some families receive an additional support amount because of the complex needs within the family.
5. Continued funding for a youth camp for the social development and life skills of young people in danger from drugs and prostitution. Also to prevent people trafficking.
6. Support for outreach work done by the Hope of Salvation Pentecostal Church in asylums around Minsk. They also undertake camps for children at special times of the year, for example, at Christmas. They selflessly give of their time and it is a privilege to be able to support this important work.
7. Family food parcels in the Grodno region. These are distributed in the "Forgotten Villages" in isolated locations in the border regions with Poland.
8. Art and Craft materials for young women to earn a living. Life is difficult for these sisters as their health continues to deteriorate. One sister had a hip replacement which did not go

well despite us funding a quality new hip joint. Remedial action is now required. The second sister has had one successful hip replacement funded by the charity. And the second hip will be replaced in the new financial year. The cost of these hip replacements has been shared with DCHA our American charity partner.

9. Christmas gifts for children in an abandoned babies home.
10. Christmas gifts for children.
11. Christmas programs for families.
12. Christmas gifts for poor families.
13. Gifts for elderly people living alone.
14. Firewood for families on the support scheme.
15. Outreach work by the Grace church in Grodno (social and material support).
16. Knitted children's hats donated but not delivered yet.
17. Knitted blankets donated but not delivered yet.
18. Increasing amounts of Sudocrem and vapour rub donated but not delivered yet.
19. Support for disabled children in Minsk at Leila's education centre. This is ongoing.
20. Support for anti-human trafficking work.
21. Support for countering domestic violence.
22. Support for an elderly persons social group.
23. Travel costs to enable visits to ex-prisoners detained in WWII.
24. Incontinence supplies for bedridden people.
25. Hip joints for hip replacement surgery.
26. Medical and therapeutic treatment of young women with severe cerebral palsy.
27. Backpacks and educational materials for children from poor families.
28. Refreshments for asylum social group.
29. Surgery for Varvara's hip displacement that had been postponed was carried out in Austria for the first hip. The second will hopefully take place in the next financial year.
30. Financial support for one day per week for the Project Manager in Belarus, and Director in Belarus for one day per week. All other workers are volunteers.
31. Education programme for Miron with partner DCHA.
32. Special food for Lisa with PKU. Also partnered with DCHA.

We continue to work to ensure compliance with the requirements of GDPR and to operate within the law. The charity still does not directly approach people for funds, but rather relies up giving information and then following up where interest is expressed.

The effects of the global Covid-19 pandemic could not have been predicted and uncertainty remains as we enter the next financial year. As a charity, we will continue to work towards achieving our objectives and adapt as circumstances require.

2021-22 will be another challenging year as we cope with the restrictions forced upon us by Covid-19 and our ability to fundraise and to travel to Belarus. We are now better prepared to meet these challenges and look forward to when we can reinstate our visits to Belarus and have first hand experience of the impact of the work of the charity.

On behalf of the Trustees,  
Alan Bridgewater  
Charity Secretary, Treasurer and Trustee  
April 2021.

\*DCHA is Direct Connect Humanitarian Aid, a USA based charity

**BELARUS FUND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FROM 6th APRIL 2020 TO 5th APRIL 2021**

**Current Account**

	Total	PAYMENTS	
		Dollars	Sterling
		Sent to Belarus	£29,175.00
Donations Gift Aided	£21,738.85		
Non Gift Aid Donations	£17,607.28		
GASDS donations	£400.76		
Contra item Flights paid by Team	£785.02		
Contra item* Currency for cancelled visit due to Covi	\$19,635		
<b>Totals</b>	<b><u>£39,746.89</u></b>		

**Bank Balance at 6th. April 2020**

**£4,836.22**

**Total Spend**

**£29,175.00**

<b>Balance at 5th April 2021</b>	<b>£39,746.89</b>
<b>Balance at 5th April 2020(less)</b>	<b>£16,193.13</b>
<b>Contra item</b>	<b>£4,836.22</b>
	<b>£785.02</b>
<b>Money withdrawn (Plus )</b>	<b><u>£29,175.00</u></b>

**Deposit Account**

**Balance £23.55**

**Interest on Bus Acc.**

**Total raised therefore £39,746.89**

Note \* funds to be taken to Belarus when borders are open and it is safe to travel

## The Belarus Fund

Registered Charity 1116762

### Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Belarus Fund

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 5<sup>th</sup> April 2021, which are set out on the Belarus Fund Statement of Accounts from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; nor

(2) which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

The accounts and financial statement, as presented, represent a true and accurate record of the charity's account.

Name: Susan Margaret Selby

Profession: Retired Pharmacist / Store Manager for Boots the Chemist

Address: 118, Overdale Rd, Romiley, Stockport. Cheshire SK6 3EN.

Signature:



Date: 07.06.2021.