

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

England & Wales · Charity number 1133561

Details

Other names	ASTRO FUND
Status	Registered
Legal form	Trust
Registered	2010-01-19
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	15 Eastgate Holme next the Sea Hunstanton PE36 6LL
Phone	01485525279
Email	treasurer@astrofund.org.uk
Website	www.astrofund.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ASSIST IN THE RELIEF OF SICKNESS AND DISTRESS OF PERSONS SUFFERING FROM LOW GRADE GLIOMA (SLOW GROWING BRAIN TUMOUR) PARTICULARLY BY SUPPORTING RESEARCH PROJECTS INTO THE CAUSES AND TREATMENT OF LOW GRADE GLIOMAS AND DISSEMINATING THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH.

Activities: FUNDING LOW-GRADE GLIOMA BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH AND SUPPORTING PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES VIA TWO ONLINE SUPPORT GROUPS.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, NATIONAL
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-05	£118,627	£49,786	-	-
2024-04-05	£37,862	£84,655	-	-
2023-04-05	£85,161	£16,733	-	-
2022-04-05	£71,010	£23,846	-	-
2021-04-05	£54,447	£2,808	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANGELA SCRUTTON		2016-10-08
DAWN SARA EMERTON		2023-10-07
Katie Louise Phillips		2024-04-01
LINDA RICKFORD		2011-10-05
MARY BURTON		
Neal Edward Blatherwick		2022-09-01
ROBERT ARTHUR BURTON		2016-11-06

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1133561

Accounts

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

5th APRIL 2025

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

Legal and Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number

1133561

Trustees

Mrs M Burton
Mrs L Rickford
Mr R Burton
Ms A Scrutton
Mr N Blatherwick
Mrs D. Emerton
Mrs K. Phillips

Independent Examiner

A Borland F.C.A.
75 Newnham Street
Ely
Cams
CB7 4PQ

Bankers

Barclays Bank

Correspondence address

15 Eastgate
Holme Next the Sea
Hunstanton
Norfolk
PE36 6LL

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

Annual Report
For the Year ended 5th April 2025

Astro Brain Tumour Fund (ABTF) has continued to raise money for research into low-grade glioma (LGG) brain tumours. These may sound benign but this slow-growing, progressive group of tumours cause inevitable life-changing and life-limiting physical and psychological symptoms and can cause death depending upon the area of the brain affected. They may also become higher grade (faster growing) over time.

Without the fund-raising efforts of patients, their families, the trustees, and other supporters, meeting the objectives of the charity would not be possible.

Research News

As well as receiving reports from ongoing research that the charity is supporting, the trustees actively seek out information on new research into low-grade brain tumours. The thrust of much research is into higher grade tumours so it can be hard to find research initiatives that fit our brief. Although the trustees are not scientists, we screen potential projects to ensure that work we support is focussed on things that will move knowledge and/or treatments forward and have scientific rigour. One outcome that we look for is the intention to publish results of the research in accredited scientific journals as this necessitates strong scientific method in the way the research is organised, performed, recorded, and analysed.

The trustees provided full funding for two PHD students working on research projects supervised by Prof. Stephen J. Price, BSc MBBS (Hons) PhD FRCS (Neuro Surg.) at Cambridge Biomedical Campus, over the next 3 years. One project is looking at developing artificial intelligence tools to monitor low grade gliomas (this project is scheduled to commence in October, 2025) and the other, which commenced in January 2023, is studying higher cognitive functions and return to work in low grade gliomas. Full funding has also been obtained for the research project headed by Mr Richard Mair, also at Cambridge, titled “Understanding Low-Grade Glioma to treat treatments to stop its Progression”. This project is commencing in late April 2025.

Projects funded in 2024/25/26:

HIGHER COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS AND RETURN TO WORK IN LOW GRADE GLIOMAS:

Prof. Stephen J. Price, BSc MBBS (Hons) PhD FRCS(Neuro Surg.) at Cambridge Biomedical Campus

This study has temporarily been put on hold due to unforeseen circumstances but we are pleased to announce that it will recommence in October 2025.

DEVELOPING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS TO MONITOR LOW GRADE GLIOMAS

Prof. Stephen J. Price, BSc MBBS (Hons) PhD FRCS (Neuro Surg.) at Cambridge Biomedical Campus

This project will commence in October 2025. By the end of this study a tool will hopefully have been developed that will allow monitoring tumours and there will also be a method that would predict high risk low grade gliomas to individualise follow up of patients.

UNDERSTANDING LOW-GRADE GLIOMA TO CREATE TREATMENTS TO STOP ITS PROGRESSION

Mr Richard Mair, Assistant Professor & Honorary Consultant Neurosurgeon, CRUK Cambridge Institute, University of Cambridge, Addenbrooke’s Hospital

We are excited to announce the funding of a PhD student undertaking the above research, which will commence in April, 2025.

Through Mr Mair’s pioneering research, patient prognosis could be extended significantly by intervening whilst the cancer remains low-grade.

Through further research, they can characterise the metabolic changes in brain cells that contribute to the tumours eventually growing. By using model systems to chart the progression of the low-grade glioma transformation, Mr Mair and his team are on the pathway towards identifying or developing drugs that could block this progression. This PhD studentship will support this vital research and take us one step closer to understanding how we can stop low-grade gliomas from progressing

FOCUSED ULTRASOUND TO DELIVER DRUG COMBINATIONS TO LGG TUMOURS

We have recently agreed to a support research project headed by Dr Sophie Morse at Imperial College London. This exciting 2-year project will look at delivering promising drugs to treat different types of LGGs effectively. A dedicated PhD student in her lab will be using focused ultrasound to deliver the most promising drug combinations to LGG tumours. This is a more efficient and kinder way of delivering drugs to the whole tumour by temporarily opening the brain's barrier, reaching previously inaccessible regions of these tumours. Research delivering drugs to high grade tumours with focused ultrasound is already underway clinically which will benefit the translation of this low-grade glioma work for LGG patients.

Attendance at Houses of Parliament, Conferences and Meetings

At the All Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours meeting on 11th February 2025, the figures were presented highlighting that government spending on brain tumours had gone down in 2023/24 and that from the entire National Institute for Health & Research (NIHR) cancer budget, only 1.6% of funding had been granted to brain tumour research. Astro Brain Tumour Fund have joined with the charity Our Brain Bank, to correspond with the Chair with regard to what can be done to address this. The information has also been made available to LGG patients and their families, with help offered as to how they might raise this issue with their own MP. ABTF joined with the charity Brain Tumour Research in contacting the Minister of Health to request a meeting to discuss funding for brain tumour research, in particular LGGs.

There is currently a lot of support from MPs to change the landscape for brain tumour patients, with many MPs tabling questions in Parliament. Trustees have held meetings with an MP, health professionals and representatives from the NIHR and the Medical Research Centre (government led bodies). Trustee Dawn also attended a roundtable discussion in London in March 2025 on the UK's diffuse glioma treatment landscape organised by Servier Laboratories Ltd.

Four ABTF Trustees attended Brain Tumour Research's Member Charities Workshop which took place in London in February 2025. Each charity made a presentation talking about their achievements and aims and good contacts were made sharing experiences and ideas.

Fundraising and Donations

The trustees are enormously grateful to everyone who has supported the charity either with donations or holding fundraising events.

Our biggest fundraiser, the Norfolk Family Walk, was held at Holkham Hall, North Norfolk on Sunday 22nd September 2024. Around 170 adults, children and dogs walked one, three, six or ten miles.

It was lovely to see so many walkers who return every year to meet up with family and friends, supporting loved ones with brain tumours or remembering those who have sadly passed away from this cruel disease. Not forgetting, of course, brain tumour patients themselves walking with their families. Grateful thanks go to Adrian Flux Insurance Services who once again generously sponsored all the expenses of the event and the owner of Holkham Hall allowing us to use the park and facilities free of charge. The 2025 walk is scheduled to take place on Sunday, 21st September.

We have a selection of fundraising events happening in the near future including a participant in the London Marathon and other running events plus numerous other fundraisers. We have also received some very generous donations.

Supply of Vorasidenib to UK LGG patients

Trial of this drug took place in several countries (including the UK) and proved very successful in delaying further treatment to patients after they underwent surgery for LGGs.

The drug continues to be available, through an early access, named patient scheme, via patients' neuro-oncologists who are required to liaise with Servier, suppliers of the drug, in order to arrange treatment, although availability is still somewhat patchy which can prove to be very frustrating for those patients unable to access the drug. ABTF trustees are trying to address this by liaising with patients' MPs and also writing to individual NHS Trusts.

Vorasidenib is now going through the process of being evaluated by National Institute for Clinical Excellence and Astro Brain Tumour Fund has participated in the scoping and evaluation stages, with a committee meeting taking place in July 2025, in which a patient representative from the Facebook support group is taking part.

Support

The Facebook Astro Brain Tumour Fund Low Grade Glioma Support Group continues to grow steadily and has reached over 600 in number. There are members from all parts of the planet including the UK, the United States, Mexico, Poland, South Africa, the Middle and the Far East, and so many more...a really widespread community. The members are so supportive of each other and are always keen to share experiences, tips, recommendations, support, pool their knowledge and share, as well as their fears, their hopes and celebrations. As is often mentioned by members themselves, it is a very much valued asset of the charity.

This global spread reflects the fact that the focus on low grade tumours support is uncommon and that there is a real need for it. Each year, we send informative leaflets to all Neuro-oncology units around the whole of the United Kingdom, so that information about Astro Brain Tumour Fund, and the support we can offer, can be shared with all newly diagnosed patients. We also offer one to one support via telephone or email when needed.

ABTF Participation in “Glioma Patient Pathway” project instigated by Servier Laboratories Ltd

Servier invited ABTF to participate in this project by way of assisting recruitment of LGG patients and carers via the Facebook support group to take part. Trustee Linda was appointed Patient Representative and Trustee Mary is named as one of the authors of the associated manuscript.

ABTF has received payments totalling £4,038 for their involvement in the project.

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

Trustees' Annual Report
For the Year ended 5th April 2025

In accordance with statutory requirements and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition – Oct 2019) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS102), the Trustees submit their report for the year ended 5th April 2024. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting policies set out on page 12 and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice edition II applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland - October 2019.

Trustees

The trustees named on page 1 served throughout the financial year.

Present Trustees Mary (Treasurer), Linda (Support Group Moderator), Robbie, Angela, Neal, Dawn and Katie have been committed to carrying on the invaluable work of the charity. Mary has been treasurer/trustee since the charity was registered in 2009, looks after the daily administration of the charity and with husband Robbie are very active fundraisers and prime organisers of the annual Holkham Hall walk. Linda, as well as fundraising, is support co-ordinator and moderates the Facebook page. Angela and Dawn represent the charity at All-Party Parliamentary Group meetings at Westminster and on related calls instigated by BTR. Neal and his family are prolific fundraisers for the charity.

Investment powers

The Trust Deed authorises the trustees to make and hold investments.

Constitution, Objects and Policies

The charity's constitution is embodied in the Trust Deed. The object of the charity is to raise funds for low grade glioma research. The work of the charity is for the public benefit seeking to improve scientific knowledge, treatments, outcomes, and support in this area. To ensure that this is at the forefront of what we do the trustees have due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission when exercising their responsibilities, for example when making funding decisions. The charity has appropriate policies in place to cover e.g., management of the Facebook support group, data protection and safeguarding, recognition of fund raisers/supporters etc. The charity has no employees and therefore no policies in relation to employment.

Developments, activities, and achievements

The trustees report that the performance of the charity for the past year has much improved from the previous year. We have full funding in place for the Cambridge projects that we are committed to and partial funding, at present for the Imperial project, with the prospect of fully funding at a later date.

Our Facebook Support Group page has been a source of strong support and information. Members are actively interacting and providing support both emotional and practical both to existing members facing periodic scans/procedures and waits for results; and also, as new patients and their families seek knowledge from those who have already been through certain treatments/tests/processes.

Financial review

The Fund derives its income from donations, grants from charitable trusts, fund-raising events run by the trustees and the charity's supporters, and interest on money held on deposit. Administrative expenses are small as the charity is run by volunteers and where possible the trustees seek sponsorship to cover administrative costs for larger events such as the Norfolk Family Walk.

Risk management

The trustees review the major risks that the charity faces on a regular basis and are mindful of risks such as reputational risk or mandate related risks when discussing day to day business of the charity or when considering research funding possibilities. The trustees have also examined other operational risks faced by the Charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks. The trustees reserve policy is to aim for its resources to be distributed to suitable research projects as soon as practical to meet commitments made. Where specific grants have been received amounts may be held as restricted reserves until such time as the activity supported by the grant is completed.

At the end of the financial year reserves were £221,015 (prior year 152,174). The trustees believe that maintaining reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources for the future.

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to Trustees in England and Wales requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities' SORP second edition – Oct 2019 (FRS102);
- Select suitable accounting standards and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departure disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees on 23rd May 2025 and signed on their behalf.

Mary Burton (Trustee)

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5TH APRIL 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>Incoming Resources</u>		
Donations and Grants	95,201	32,127
Restricted Grants	10,000	-
Gift Aid Repayments	4,208	4,773
Interest Received	5,180	962
Miscellaneous Receipts	<u>4,038</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Income	<u>118,627</u>	<u>37,862</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Research Funding	30,254	52,500
Fundraising	248	1,016
Restricted Expenses	672	30,452
Restricted Research Grant Funding	17,548	
Website Hosting	300	300
Insurance	185	185
Publicity	544	167
Miscellaneous	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>49,786</u>	<u>84,655</u>
Net Incoming Resources	68,841	(46,793)
Fund Balances B/Fwd	<u>152,174</u>	<u>198,967</u>
Fund Balances C/Fwd	<u>£ 221,015</u>	<u>£ 152,174</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 5TH APRIL 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Barclays Bank	121,005	22,164
Cambridge & Counties Bank	<u>100,010</u>	<u>130,010</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>221,015</u>	<u>152,174</u>
 <u>Funds</u>		
Fund Reserves	221,015	144,626
Restricted Reserves (note 2)	<u>-</u>	<u>7,548</u>
	<u>£221,015</u>	<u>£152,174</u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees

On 23rd May 2025 and signed on
Their behalf

Mary Burton
Trustee

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Astro Brain Tumour Fund

Charity Number – 1133561

We report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 5th April 2025, on pages 5-6.

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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:-

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act.
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities 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. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 Charities Act.
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

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

A Borland F.C.A.
75 Newnham Street
Ely Cambs CB7 4PQ

Dated 20th May 2025

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

7

Notes to the Accounts
For the Year ended 5th April 2024

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable UK accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102). Additionally, they comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' second edition – October 2019 in all material aspects. The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The functional currency of the Charity is considered to be Pounds Sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the charity operates.

1.3 Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of one year from the date of approval of these financial statements.

The trustees of the charity have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. There is no specific threat or relevance to Astro Brain Tumour Fund from most government policies. The charity benefits from our supporters being very active fundraisers and the annual Holkham Walk being a well-supported event. We also received some significant donations in the year which resulted in receipts being £80,765 up on the previous year. In addition, the charity has small, fixed overheads. The trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet funding obligations that will be tailored to fit resources and reserve policies. The charity does not take on funding commitments beyond the available reserves.

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1133561

Accounts

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

5th APRIL 2024

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

Legal and Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number

1133561

Trustees

Mrs M Burton
Mrs L Rickford
Mr R Burton
Ms A Scrutton
Mrs S Hopkins (resigned 22.1.24)
Mr N Blatherwick
Mrs D. Emerton (appointed 5.11.23)
Mrs K. Phillips (appointed 1.4.24)

Independent Examiner

A Borland F.C.A.
75 Newnham Street
Ely
Cams
CB7 4PQ

Bankers

Barclays Bank

Correspondence address

15 Eastgate
Holme Next the Sea
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ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

Annual Report
For the Year ended 5th April 2024

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Without the fund-raising efforts of patients, their families, the trustees, and other supporters meeting the objectives of the charity would not be possible.

Research News

As well as receiving reports from ongoing research that the charity is supporting, the trustees actively seek out information on new research into low-grade brain tumours. The thrust of much research is into higher grade tumours so it can be hard to find research initiatives that fit our brief. Although the trustees are not scientists, we screen potential projects to ensure that work we support is focussed on things that will move knowledge and/or treatments forward and have scientific rigour. One outcome that we look for is the intention to publish results of the research in accredited scientific journals as this necessitates strong scientific method in the way the research is organised, performed, recorded, and analysed.

The trustees obtained full funding for two PHD students working on research projects supervised by Prof. Stephen J. Price, BSc MBBS (Hons) PhD FRCS(Neuro Surg.) at Cambridge Biomedical Campus, over the next 3 years, this will utilise a large part of the reserves we are holding at present. One project is looking at developing artificial intelligence tools to monitor low grade gliomas (this project is scheduled to commence in 2024) and the other, which commenced in January 2023, is studying higher cognitive functions and return to work in low grade gliomas. The charity also extended the funding of “Molecular regulation of paediatric low-grade gliomas” for a further six months.

Projects funded in 2023/24:

Molecular regulation of paediatric low-grade gliomas:

Annual Report from Professor Denise Sheer, Blizard Institute, Queen Mary University of London. 23rd April 2023

“Firstly, I’d like to thank the Trustees and the supporters of Astro Brain Tumour Fund for their generous funding. As reported previously, the aim of our research programme is to characterise the molecular changes that lead to the development of low-grade gliomas in children.

“Everything in the lab is going really well and we are so excited about the work. We have been culturing and analysing our new tumour models from Harvard and decided to do all of the molecular profiling in a single batch. This will allow us do proper comparisons between all the different genetic alterations that are found in children’s LGG (and in some adult tumours too), not just the BRAF changes. Our findings were presented to an international online committee on Thursday and the reviewers were very interested in what we showed. I’ve also been invited to a talk to a Cancer Research UK Paediatric Cancer Conference at Great Ormond Street Hospital”

Higher cognitive functions and return to work in low grade gliomas:

**Report from Jasmine Kennedy, PhD student who is executing the above project under the supervision of Professor Stephen J. Price BSc MBBS (Hons) PhD FRCS (Neuro Surg.)
Clinical Professor of Neurosurgical Oncology, Hon. Consultant Neurosurgeon,
Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Cambridge**

“We’re very happy to report another successful meeting with the trustees of Astro Brain Tumour Fund at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge in April 2024. The aims of the meeting were to:

1. Present the results of the first stage of our project, a service questionnaire, to the trustees.
2. Begin planning of the next stages of the project, which includes one-to-one interviews.

A total of 47 participants (aged 22-59 years, 31 females and 16 males) with low grade glioma responded to our questionnaire. Participants were asked questions about their work status prior to their diagnosis and currently, their experiences of receiving certain clinical services (for example, vocational rehabilitation) and their opinions on whether their cognitive functions (for example, attention, memory, decision making) had gotten better or worse since before their diagnosis.

Of the 47 participants, 28 (59.6%) had returned to work, 15 (31.9%) had not returned to work and four (8.5%) were on sick leave. Seven participants did not take time off work after receiving their low grade glioma diagnosis. Participants who had not returned to work reporting that their working memory (i.e., the small amount of information that can be held in mind and used in the execution of cognitive tasks) had gotten significantly worse since before their diagnosis. Most participants (57.4%) reported that they often experience fatigue. Only seven participants (14.9%) received vocational rehabilitation after completing treatment for their LGG; three participants were very satisfied, four participants were satisfied, and one participant was very unsatisfied with this service.

We are now focusing on the next stages of the project. This will include semi-structured interviews, neuropsychological assessment, and evaluation of a simple screening tool. This screening tool could possibly be used in clinical settings to screen for deficits in higher cognitive function. We will further investigate some of the issues collected from the service questionnaire on a deeper level during the interview stage”.

Developing artificial intelligence tools to monitor low grade gliomas

Prof. Stephen J. Price, BSc MBBS (Hons) PhD FRCS(Neuro Surg.) at Cambridge Biomedical Campus

Prof Price is in the process of interviewing PHD students to carry out this work and it is hoped that the project will commence within the next few months.

Attendance at Houses of Parliament and Conferences

We continue to support the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Brain Tumours which seeks to raise awareness of the issues facing the brain tumour community to improve research, diagnosis, information, support, treatment and care outcomes.

In late 2023, we supported the Emerton family in bringing to the APPG’s attention their and the LGG community’s frustrations in being unable to access the new drug, Vorasidenib in the UK (see below). As a direct result, the APPG took action to further establish the main issues and solutions, and engaging with the manufacturers, Servier, at the highest level in the UK in early 2024. Vorasidenib is now available in the UK under the early access scheme on a named patient basis.

At the APPG on 14th November 2023, Mr Kismet Hossain-Ibrahim of Dundee University did a presentation on Sonic Dynamic Therapy - ABTF trustees have engaged with him to try to understand the obstacles he is facing in getting this into a clinical trial in the UK and continue to pursue this. Also, Dr Kathreena Kurian of North Bristol NHS Trust presented a talk on the importance of genetic whole genome sequencing - which ABTF pursued by presenting information to LGG patients in order for them to understand more about this and also how they might access it

Fundraising and Donations

The trustees are enormously grateful to everyone who has supported the charity either with donations or holding fundraising events.

Our biggest fundraiser, the Norfolk Family Walk, was held at Holkham Hall, North Norfolk on Sunday 24th September 2023. Around 150 adults, children and dogs walked one, three, six or ten miles.

We were a small team of helpers this year but had some assistance with the preparation.

It was lovely to see so many walkers who return every year to meet up with family and friends, supporting loved ones with brain tumours or remembering those who have sadly passed away from this cruel disease. Not forgetting, of course, brain tumour patients themselves walking with their families. Adrian Flux Insurance Services once again generously sponsored all the expenses of the event, with the owners of Holkham Hall allowing us to use the park and facilities free of charge.

The 2024 walk is scheduled to take place on Sunday, 22th September.

Support

The Astro Brain Tumour Fund Low Grade Glioma support group continues to grow steadily and has reached over 600 in number. There are members from all parts of the planet including the UK, the United States, Mexico, Poland, South Africa, the Middle and the Far East, and so many more...a really widespread community. The members are so supportive of each other and are always keen to share experiences, tips, recommendations, support, pool their knowledge and share, as well as their fears, their hopes and celebrations. As is often mentioned by members themselves, it is a very much valued asset of the charity.

This global spread reflects the fact that the focus on low grade tumours support is uncommon and that there is a real need for it. Each year, we send informative leaflets to all Neuro-oncology units around the whole of the United Kingdom, so that information about Astro Brain Tumour Fund, and the support we can offer, can be shared with all newly diagnosed patients.

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

Trustees' Annual Report
For the Year ended 5th April 2024

In accordance with statutory requirements and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition – Oct 2019) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS102), the Trustees submit their report for the year ended 5th April 2024. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting policies set out on page 12 and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice edition II applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland - October 2019.

Trustees

The trustees named on page 1 served throughout the financial year, with the exception of Sam who resigned in January 2024 due to personal circumstances and Dawn who joined us in November 2023 and Katie in April 2024. Appointment of trustees is governed by the Trust Deed of the charity.

Present Trustees Mary (Treasurer), Linda (Support Group Moderator), Robbie, Angela, Neal, Dawn and Katie have been committed to carrying on the invaluable work of the charity. Mary has been treasurer/trustee since the charity was registered in 2009, looks after the daily administration of the charity and with husband Robbie are very active fundraisers and prime organisers of the annual Holkham Hall walk. Linda, as well as fundraising, is support co-ordinator and moderates the Facebook page, Sam has focussed on the website and has agreed to carry on with this invaluable work. Angela and Dawn represent the charity at All-Party Parliamentary Group meetings at Westminster and on related calls instigated by BTR. Neal and his family are prolific fundraisers for the charity.

Supply of Vorasidenib to UK LGG patients

Trial of this drug took place in several countries (including the UK) and proved very successful in delaying further treatment to patients after they underwent surgery for LGGs.

Trustee Dawn was instrumental in instigating a campaign for the drug to become available for all patients who qualified for this drug in the UK. Dawn, Mary and Angela worked together and began a petition which gained over 10,000 signatures. There were numerous email exchanges with Servier (the suppliers of vorasidenib), MPs, patients and other brain tumour charity representatives and it is gratifying to report that the drug has just become available, through an early access scheme, via patients' oncologists who are required to liaise with Servier in order to arrange treatment.

Investment powers

The Trust Deed authorises the trustees to make and hold investments.

Constitution, Objects and Policies

The charity's constitution is embodied in the Trust Deed. The object of the charity is to raise funds for low grade glioma research. The work of the charity is for the public benefit seeking to improve scientific knowledge, treatments, outcomes, and support in this area. To ensure that this is at the forefront of what we do the trustees have due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission when exercising their responsibilities, for example when making funding decisions. The charity has appropriate policies in place to cover e.g., management of the Facebook support group, data protection and safeguarding, recognition of fund raisers/supporters etc. The charity has no employees and therefore no policies in relation to employment.

Developments, activities, and achievements

The trustees report that the performance of the charity for the past year has been challenging, with income down from previous years. However, we have full funding in place for the research projects we are committed to. In the year we invested a further £30,000 in research being run by Professor Denise Sheer into molecular regulation of paediatric low-grade gliomas. With Professor Stephen Price, we have begun funding one of two new research projects, the second one will hopefully begin later in 2024.

Our Facebook Support Group page has been a source of strong support and information. Members are actively interacting and providing support both emotional and practical both to existing members facing periodic scans/procedures and waits for results; and also, as new patients and their families seek knowledge from those who have already been through certain treatments/tests/processes.

Financial review

The Fund derives its income from donations, grants from charitable trusts, fund-raising events run by the trustees and the charity's supporters, and interest on money held on deposit. Administrative expenses are small as the charity is run by volunteers and where possible the trustees seek sponsorship to cover administrative costs for larger events such as the Norfolk Family Walk.

Risk management

The trustees review the major risks that the charity faces on a regular basis and are mindful of risks such as reputational risk or mandate related risks when discussing day to day business of the charity or when considering research funding possibilities. The trustees have also examined other operational risks faced by the Charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks. The trustees reserve policy is to aim for its resources to be distributed to suitable research projects as soon as practical to meet commitments made. Where specific grants have been received amounts may be held as restricted reserves until such time as the activity supported by the grant is completed. At the end of the financial year reserves were £198,967 (prior year £130,539) of which £38,000 were restricted reserves. The trustees believe that maintaining reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources for the future.

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to Trustees in England and Wales requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities' SORP second edition – Oct 2019 (FRS102);
- Select suitable accounting standards and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departure disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees on _____ 2024 and signed on their behalf.

Mary Burton (Trustee)

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Astro Brain Tumour Fund

Charity Number – 1133561

We report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 5th April 2024, on pages 5-6.

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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:-

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act.
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities 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. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 Charities Act.
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

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

A Borland F.C.A.
75 Newnham Street
Ely Cambs CB7 4PQ

Dated _____

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5TH APRIL 2024

	<u>2024</u>	Total	<u>2023</u>
<u>Incoming Resources:-</u>			
Donations and Grants	32,127		42,981
Restricted Grants	0		38,000
Gift Aid repayments	4,773		4,080
Interest Received	<u>962</u>		<u>100</u>
Total Income	<u>37,862</u>		<u>85,161</u>
<u>Expenditure:-</u>			
Research Funding	52,500		15,000
Fundraising	1,016		562
Restricted expenses (note 2)	30,452		651
Website hosting	300		300
Insurance	185		185
Publicity	167		-
Printing, Postage and Stationery	-		-
Miscellaneous	<u>35</u>		<u>35</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>84,655</u>		<u>16,733</u>
Net Incoming Resources	(46,793)		68,428
Fund Balances b/fwd	<u>198,967</u>		<u>130,539</u>
Fund Balances c/fwd	<u>£152,174</u>		<u>£198,967</u>

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 5TH APRIL 2024

	<u>2024</u>	2023
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Barclays Bank	22,164	128,957
Cambridge & Counties Bank	<u>130,010</u>	<u>70,010</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>£152,174</u>	<u>£198,967</u>
<u>Funds</u>		
Fund Reserves	144,626	160,967
Restricted Reserves (note 2)	<u>7,548</u>	<u>38,000</u>
	<u>£152,174</u>	<u>£198,967</u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees on _____ and signed on their behalf

Mary Burton
Trustee

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

7

Notes to the Accounts For the Year ended 5th April 2024

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable UK accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102). Additionally, they comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' second edition – October 2019 in all material aspects. The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The functional currency of the Charity is considered to be Pounds Sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the charity operates.

1.3 Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of one year from the date of approval of these financial statements.

The trustees of the charity have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. There is no specific threat or relevance to Astro Brain Tumour Fund from most government policies. The charity benefits from our supporters being very active fundraisers and the annual Holkham Walk being a well-supported event. We also received some significant donations in the year which resulted in receipts being £14,151 up on the previous year. In addition, the charity has small, fixed overheads. The trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet funding obligations that will be tailored to fit resources and reserve policies. The charity does not take on funding commitments beyond the available reserves.

2 Restricted Reserves and Expenses

In 2022 two grants were received - £15,000 from Mazars Charitable Trust and £23,000 (Anon). These grants are being treated as restricted and will be used towards the project of 'Higher Cognitive Functions and Return to work' being carried out at Cambridge by Prof Stephen Price and his PHD student, Jasmine Kennedy.

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1133561

Accounts

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

5th APRIL 2023

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

Legal and Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number	1133561
Trustees	Mrs M Burton Mrs L Rickford Mr R Burton Ms A Scrutton Mrs T Jordan (resigned 30.8.2022) Mrs S Hopkins Mr N Blatherwick (appointed 1.10.2022)
Independent Examiner	A Borland F.C.A. 75 Newnham Street Ely Cams CB7 4PQ
Bankers	Barclays Bank
Correspondence address	15 Eastgate Holme Next the Sea Hunstanton Norfolk PE36 6LL

Annual Report
For the Year ended 5th April 2023

Astro Brain Tumour Fund has continued to raise money for research into low-grade glioma brain tumours. These may sound benign but this slow-growing, progressive group of tumours cause inevitable life-changing and life-limiting physical and psychological symptoms and can cause death depending upon the area of the brain affected. They may also become higher grade (faster growing) over time.

Without the fund-raising efforts of patients, their families, the trustees, and other supporters meeting the objectives of the charity would not be possible.

Research News

As well as receiving reports from ongoing research that the charity is supporting, the trustees actively seek out information on new research into low-grade brain tumours. The thrust of much research is into higher grade tumours so it can be hard to find research initiatives that fit our brief. Although the trustees are not scientists, we screen potential projects to ensure that work we support is focussed on things that will move knowledge and/or treatments forward and have scientific rigour. One outcome that we look for is the intention to publish results of the research in accredited scientific journals as this necessitates strong scientific method in the way the research is organised, performed, recorded, and analysed.

The trustees, thanks in part to two generous grants, have now accumulated full funding for two PHD students working on research projects to be supervised by Prof. Stephen J. Price, BSc MBBS (Hons) PhD FRCS(Neuro Surg.) at Cambridge Biomedical Campus, over the next 3 years, this will utilise a large part of the reserves we are holding at present. One project is looking at developing artificial intelligence tools to monitor low grade gliomas (this project is scheduled to commence in July 2023) and the other, which commenced in January 2023, is studying higher cognitive functions and return to work in low grade gliomas.

Projects funded in 2022/23:

Molecular regulation of paediatric low-grade gliomas:

Annual Report from Professor Denise Sheer, Blizard Institute, Queen Mary University of London. 23rd April 2023

Firstly, I'd like to thank the Trustees and the supporters of Astro Brain Tumour Fund for their generous funding. As reported previously, the aim of our research programme is to characterise the molecular changes that lead to the development of low-grade gliomas in children. I am delighted to let you know that we have had a highly successful year with our research focused on two types of children's low-grade gliomas, pilocytic astrocytomas and glioneuronal tumours. These tumours each have distinct genetic mutations that lead to cascades of biochemical events that cause the cells to grow abnormally. With your support, our student Lewis Woodward has now completed his substantial PhD thesis entitled "Signalling networks in paediatric low-grade gliomas". In the thesis, Lewis describes the identification and detailed analysis of these biochemical cascades using cutting-edge experimental and computational methods. He will now continue working in our group to conduct further experiments so that we can publish the work in a scientific journal. Our findings were presented at the International Society for Pediatric Neuro-Oncology conference in Hamburg in June 2022 and the Cancer Research UK Brain Tumour Conference in September 2022. I also gave an invited talk on the work at a paediatric low-grade glioma conference at the Dana Farber Cancer Research Institute in Harvard in November 2022. A huge Thank You, once again, to you all. We could not have done any of this without you, and I am looking forward to giving you further updates in the coming year.

Higher cognitive functions and return to work in low grade gliomas:

**Report from Professor Stephen J. Price BSc MBBS (Hons) PhD FRCS(Neuro Surg.)
Clinical Professor of Neurosurgical Oncology, Hon. Consultant Neurosurgeon,
Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Cambridge, who is supervising the above project being executed
by PHD student, Jasmine Kennedy**

Over the last few years, we have seen a change in how we treat low-grade gliomas. This has led to improvements in survival. We now need to concentrate on the quality of that survival. As low-grade gliomas predominantly affect young people, keeping them in employment must be a major aim of treatment.

It is well understood that returning to work is important for cancer patients. It provides financial stability, improves quality of life and ensures on going social interactions. A study of cancer survivors showed that only 13% were not able to work 1-5 years after treatment. This rate increases in patients who have disabilities. Patients with brain tumours commonly report disabilities and were most likely not to return to work. For low grade gliomas, studies suggest that 52% return to work in the first-year post-treatment, this increases to 63% by year 2. It still suggests that over a third of low-grade glioma patients don't return to work by year 2.

One of the main factors that determine if patients will go back to work, is their cognitive function. These are a series of mental process that are required for us to think, remember, plan and concentrate. Executive function accounts for several mental processes that enable us to plan, focus attention, remember instructions, and juggle multiple tasks successfully. Deficits in executive function have devastating effects on a patient's ability to work and attend school, function responsibly in the home, or have appropriate social relations. One major problem is that there is no easy way to screen for this in all patients, so we don't know if patients are having problems with executive function.

We believe that problems with executive function will be more common in patients who have not returned to work. We plan to investigate this by:

1. Producing a survey for the patient group to understand how many patients fail to get back to work and explore some of the reasons for this.
2. Develop a method of screening patients for cognitive problems so we can find patients who have problems with executive function.
3. See if there are differences in executive function between low grade glioma patients that return to work and those that don't.
4. Use the information we have collected to work out the best way to rehabilitate patients to help them get back to work.

Attendance at Houses of Parliament and Conferences

We continue to support the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Brain Tumours which seeks to raise awareness of the issues facing the brain tumour community to improve research, diagnosis, information, support, treatment and care outcomes. Following a debate in the House of Commons on 9 March 2023 into brain tumour funding, the APPG published its latest report – "Pathway to a Cure – Breaking Down the Barriers". The report identifies barriers to spending the £40m for research into brain tumours the Government committed in 2018 following Dame Tessa Jowell's death. Just £15m has been awarded to researchers to date.

Key recommendations of the report include the Government should recognise brain tumour research as a "critical priority" and ring-fence £110m of current and new funding: the research funding system needs to be joined up from basic science through to clinical trials, and funding bodies should ring-fence specific funding for research into childhood brain tumours where survival rates for the most aggressive tumours have remained unchanged for decades. Research into brain tumours would be much easier if these recommendations were acted upon by Government.

Fundraising and Donations

The trustees are enormously grateful to everyone who has supported the charity either with donations or holding fundraising events.

Our biggest fundraiser, the Norfolk Family Walk, was held at Holkham Hall, North Norfolk on Sunday 25th September 2022. Around 180 adults, children and dogs walked one, three, six or ten miles. We were a small team of helpers this year but had some assistance with the preparation. It was lovely to see so many walkers who return every year to meet up with family and friends, supporting loved ones with brain tumours or remembering those who have sadly passed away from this cruel disease. Not forgetting, of course, brain tumour patients themselves walking with their families. Adrian Flux Insurance Services once again generously sponsored all the expenses of the event, with the owners of Holkham Hall allowing us to use the park and facilities free of charge.

The 2023 walk is scheduled to take place on Sunday, 24th September.

Support

Our Facebook Support Group was set up specifically for those diagnosed with a low-grade glioma, and their carers, and is a thriving and supportive platform which now reaches over 500 brain tumour patients and their families. This aids those diagnosed to share their experiences and helps newcomers with advice and emotional support, alleviating some of the fears and feelings that often come with a brain tumour diagnosis, and the subsequent treatments and difficulties. The numbers using the page at any one time varies according to people's changing circumstances. Our page has an international reach with members, not only from the UK and countries all over Europe, but also from Australia, the Americas, Africa and even reaching Antarctica. This global spread reflects the fact that the focus on low grade tumours support is uncommon and that there is a real need for it. Each year, we send informative leaflets to all Neuro-oncology units around the whole of the United Kingdom, so that information about Astro Brain Tumour Fund, and the support we can offer, can be shared with all newly diagnosed patients.

Grant Funding

Mazars Charitable Trust

John Blatherwick, son of our newest trustee Neal, applied to the Mazars Charitable Trust for a grant resulting in Astro Brain Tumour Fund receiving the generous sum of £15,000. The Mazars Charitable Trust is funded by John's employer Mazars LLP. This donation is in support of the application for funding part of year of a PHD student for a research project being carried out by Mr. Stephen J. Price in regard to "*Higher Cognitive Functions & Return to work in Low Grade Glioma*". This project commenced in January 2023.

Will Trust

The trustees were very pleased to secure match funding for the money raised from the Norfolk Family walk. This was provided through the generosity of Trustees of a Will Trust, the broad objectives of which align with those of the Astro Brain Tumour Fund. They were subsequently impressed with the proposed project lead by Professor Price – Higher cognitive functions and return to work in low grade gliomas – to donate a further £23,000 to enable the trustees to commit the full 3 year funding so that the project could start at the earliest opportunity.

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

Trustees' Annual Report For the Year ended 5th April 2023

In accordance with statutory requirements and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition – Oct 2019) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS102), the Trustees submit their report for the year ended 5th April 2023. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting policies set out on page 12 and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice edition II applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland - October 2019.

Trustees

The trustees named on page 1 served throughout the financial year, with the exception of Teresa who resigned in August 2022 and Neal who joined us in October 2022. Appointment of trustees is governed by the Trust Deed of the charity.

Present Trustees Mary (Treasurer), Linda (Support Group Moderator), Robbie, Angela, Sam and Neal have been committed to carrying on the invaluable work of the charity. Mary has been treasurer/ trustee since the charity was registered in 2009, looks after the daily administration of the charity and with husband Robbie are very active fundraisers and prime organisers of the annual Holkham Hall walk. Linda, as well as fundraising, is support co-ordinator and moderates the Facebook page, Sam has focussed on the website. Angela acts as chair at trustee meetings. She and Linda represent the charity at All-Party Parliamentary Group meetings at Westminster and on related calls instigated by BTR. Neal and his family are prolific fundraisers for the charity.

Investment powers

The Trust Deed authorises the trustees to make and hold investments.

Constitution, Objects and Policies

The charity's constitution is embodied in the Trust Deed. The object of the charity is to raise funds for low grade glioma research. The work of the charity is for the public benefit seeking to improve scientific knowledge, treatments, outcomes, and support in this area. To ensure that this is at the forefront of what we do the trustees have due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission when exercising their responsibilities, for example when making funding decisions. The charity has appropriate policies in place to cover e.g., management of the Facebook support group, data protection and safeguarding, recognition of fund raisers/supporters etc. The charity has no employees and therefore no policies in relation to employment.

Developments, activities, and achievements

The trustees consider that the performance of the charity for the second year running has been outstanding. The increase in income over last year was £14,151; and that year was already up £13,755 up on the previous year. In the year we invested £15,000 in research being run by Professor Denise Sheer into molecular regulation of paediatric low-grade gliomas, with the balance of £22,500 to be paid in 2023. With Professor Price, we have also identified and funded two new research projects, as described above.

Our Facebook Support Group page has been a source of strong support and information. Members are actively interacting and providing support both emotional and practical both to existing members facing periodic scans/procedures and waits for results; and also, as new patients and their families seek knowledge from those who have already been through certain treatments/tests/processes.

Financial review

The Fund derives its income from donations, grants from charitable trusts, fund-raising events run by the trustees and the charity's supporters, and interest on money held on deposit. Administrative expenses are small as the charity is run by volunteers and where possible the trustees seek sponsorship to cover administrative costs for larger events such as the Norfolk Family Walk.

Risk management

The trustees review the major risks that the charity faces on a regular basis and are mindful of risks such as reputational risk or mandate related risks when discussing day to day business of the charity or when considering research funding possibilities. The trustees have also examined other operational risks faced by the Charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks. The trustees reserve policy is to aim for its resources to be distributed to suitable research projects as soon as practical to meet commitments made. Where specific grants have been received amounts may be held as restricted reserves until such time as the activity supported by the grant is completed. At the end of the financial year reserves were £198,967 (prior year £130,539) of which £38,000 were restricted reserves. The trustees believe that maintaining reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources for the future.

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to Trustees in England and Wales requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities' SORP second edition – Oct 2019 (FRS102);
- Select suitable accounting standards and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departure disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees on _____ 2023 and signed on their behalf.

Linda Rickford (Trustee)

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Astro Brain Tumour Fund

Charity Number – 1133561

We report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 5th April 2023, on pages 5-6.

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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:-

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act.
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities 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. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 Charities Act.
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

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

A Borland F.C.A.
75 Newnham Street
Ely Cambs CB7 4PQ

Dated _____

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5TH APRIL 2023

	<u>Total</u>	<u>2022</u>
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>Incoming Resources:-</u>		
Donations and Grants	42,981	68,066
Restricted Grants	38,000	-
Gift Aid repayments	4,080	2,821
Interest Received	<u>100</u>	<u>123</u>
Total Income	<u>85,161</u>	<u>71,010</u>
<u>Expenditure:-</u>		
Research Funding	15,000	22,500
Fundraising	562	719
Restricted expenses (note 2)	651	91
Website hosting	300	300
Insurance	185	185
Publicity	-	-
Printing, Postage and Stationery	-	16
Miscellaneous	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>16,733</u>	<u>23,846</u>
Net Incoming Resources	68,428	47,164
Fund Balances b/fwd	<u>130,539</u>	<u>83,375</u>
Fund Balances c/fwd	<u>£198,967</u>	<u>£130,539</u>

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 5TH APRIL 2023

	2023	2022
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Barclays Bank	128,957	120,539
Cambridge & Counties Bank	<u>70,010</u>	<u>10,000</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>£198,967</u>	<u>£130,539</u>
<u>Funds</u>		
Fund Reserves	160,967	130,539
Restricted Reserves (note 2)	<u>38,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>£198,967</u>	<u>£130,539</u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees on _____ and signed on their behalf

Linda Rickford
Trustee

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

Notes to the Accounts For the Year ended 5th April 2023

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable UK accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102). Additionally, they comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' second edition – October 2019 in all material aspects. The Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The functional currency of the Charity is considered to be Pounds Sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the charity operates.

1.3 Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of one year from the date of approval of these financial statements.

The trustees of the charity have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. There is no specific threat or relevance to Astro Brain Tumour Fund from most government policies. The charity benefits from our supporters being very active fundraisers and the annual Holkham Walk being a well-supported event. We also received some significant donations in the year which resulted in receipts being £14,151 up on the previous year. In addition, the charity has small, fixed overheads. The trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet funding obligations that will be tailored to fit resources and reserve policies. The charity does not take on funding commitments beyond the available reserves.

2 Restricted Reserves and Expenses

In 2022 two grants were received - £15,000 from Mazars Charitable Trust and £23,000 (Anon). These grants are being treated as restricted and will be used towards the project of 'Higher Cognitive Functions and Return to work' being carried out at Cambridge by Pro Stephen Price and his PHD student, Jasmine Kennedy.

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1133561

Accounts

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

5TH APRIL 2022

Legal and Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number	1133561
Trustees	Mrs M Burton Mrs L Rickford Mr R Burton Ms A Scrutton Mrs T Jordan Mrs S Hopkins
Independent Examiner	Mr A Borland F.C.A. 75 Newnham Street Ely Cambs CB7 4PQ
Bankers	Barclays Bank
Correspondence address	15 Eastgate Holme Next the Sea Hunstanton Norfolk PE36 6LL

Annual Report
For the Year ended 5th April 2022

Astro Brain Tumour Fund has continued to raise money for research into low-grade glioma brain tumours. LGGs can lie detected for many years before symptoms suddenly appear and turn the victim's lives upside down. Symptoms can vary depending on where the tumour is located in the brain. Low grade tumours can sometimes progress to a more malignant form of brain cancer and ultimately be life threatening.

Without the fund-raising efforts of patients, their families, the trustees, and other supporters meeting the objectives of the charity would not be possible.

Research News

As well as receiving reports from ongoing research that the charity is supporting, the trustees actively seek out information on new research into low grade brain tumours. The thrust of much research is into higher grade tumours so it can be hard to find research initiatives that fit our brief. Although the trustees are not scientists, we screen potential projects to ensure that work we support is focussed on things that will move knowledge and/or treatments forward and have scientific rigour. One outcome that we look for is the intention to publish results of the research in accredited scientific journals as this necessitates strong scientific method in the way the research is organised, performed, recorded, and analysed.

The trustees are in the process of arranging to fund two research projects to be run by Mr. Stephen J. Price, BSc MBBS (Hons) PhD FRCS(Neuro Surg.) at Cambridge Biomedical Campus, over 3 years that will utilise a large part of the reserves we are holding at present. One potential project is looking at developing artificial intelligence tools to monitor low grade gliomas and the other is looking at higher cognitive functions and return to work in low grade gliomas.

Project funded in 21/22:

Molecular regulation of paediatric low-grade gliomas:

Denise Sheer, D.Phil. Professor of Human Genetics
Barts & The London School of Medicine & Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London.

The trustees decided to support Professor Sheer's research project, which started in July 2021, with a £60,000 investment over two years. Giving a status update Denise said:- "Low-grade gliomas are the most common brain tumours in children. Although there have been improvements in treatment, many children with these tumours suffer from long-term health problems that persist into adulthood. Our project aims to define the molecular processes that give rise to low-grade gliomas and regulate their growth, in order to use this information to improve outcomes. We have had a very productive first year with support from the Astro Brain Tumour Fund. We have been investigating two types of children's low-grade gliomas, called pilocytic astrocytomas and glioneuronal tumours. These tumour types have very specific genetic alterations that activate the "MAPK signalling pathway", leading to a cascade of biochemical events in the tumour cells. Through detailed molecular profiling and computational analysis of the tumours, we have examined these cascades in detail and identified some of the critical regulatory processes. Our findings were presented at the International Society for Pediatric Neuro-Oncology conference in Hamburg in June and elicited a lot of interest. We are grateful to the Astro Brain Tumour Fund for their generous funding and look forward to the second year of our research. "

Attendance at Houses of Parliament and Conferences

We continue to support the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Brain Tumours but there have been no in person meetings in London in the period.

Fundraising and Donations

We were delighted to hear that we had been selected as one of the Brit Insurance Employee charities for 2022. We received an initial donation of £10,000. Thank you to Andy Camber (one of their employees) who nominated us.

The trustees are very grateful to everyone who has supported the charity either with donations or holding fundraising events. Picking out a few of the donations/fund raising efforts by supporters this year:-

A donation of just over £1500 was received from Violet Frost who mentioned that she was particularly pleased that the charity is run by volunteers and administration costs are small.

Several donations were received in memory of Trevor Forecast. Trevor was married to Christine who was secretary of ABTF for many years, her daughter Katie having founded the charity. Trevor was instrumental in helping organise the Holkham walk for 10 years.

Money is still being donated and events organised in loving memory of Gemma Barrett who passed away in 2010 from a brain tumour.

Amongst the charities supporters the Blatherwick family have been very active and successful in fundraising in memory of Catherine Blatherwick. Certain sports events such as Mark's football tournament have become annual events and seem to be getting more popular each year. Events involving refreshments are also always successful. Neal Blatherwick (Catherine's husband) has kindly agreed to become a trustee going forward (appointment pending) to help the charity continue to succeed.

Generally, all the charity's supporters, but especially trustees Mary, Robbie and Linda, have been very busy with a variety of fundraising activities including holding open gardens and selling garden produce, honey and also a vintage guitar; pub race nights; running marathons/half marathons; Xmas themed events; afternoon teas, coffee with bingo and events on Wear a Hat Day.

Our largest fundraiser of the year, the walk at Holkham Hall took place on the 26th of September 2021. The weather was fine – after a cloudy start, the sun came out in the afternoon which lifted everybody's spirits. Such a relief after the last couple of years of rain! Numbers attending were a little down from last year mainly due to the fuel shortage situation but around 185 adults & children and 40 four-legged friends walked their choice of mileage around the beautiful grounds. Many walkers come year after year, lots are connected to the brain tumour community, some are brain tumour patients and their friends and family, and others are walking in memory of loved ones lost. It is always a poignant, uplifting occasion and it's lovely to see old faces and to meet new people.

People were most generous with their donations once again, and a raffle and tombola were also held to help swell the coffers, funds raised were in excess of £6,000.

Adrian Flux Insurance Services once again generously sponsored all the expenses of the event, with the owners of Holkham Hall allowing us to use the park and facilities free of charge.

We also received matched funding related to the 2020 walk of £2,548 during the current year.

The 2022 walk is scheduled for Sunday 25th September.

We received £1,640 from supporters of the charity via regular standing orders. £19,923 was either banked by our treasurer or received by direct bank transfer. Reflecting the changing way that people give:- £36,755 was received via various Internet platforms such as Just Giving (including £16,084 raised in memory of Samantha Bruce and £3,753 raised by Matthew Phillips), Giving.com, Virgin Money and PayPal etc. which validates the trustees decision to be open to several of these platforms. Some donations on these are regular monthly payments akin to standing orders. Almost £250 of the total was from Amazon Smile and Easy Fundraising which is based on routine purchases made by our supporters – a potential growth area for the charity. Interest on bank deposits and Gift Aid rebates from HMRC added a further £2,944.

In total the above comes to £71,010 which is an outstanding achievement especially with the sector generally suffering from decreased donations and the lower Holkham Walk receipts. The trustees would like to take this opportunity to say a very grateful thanks to all the community for all the support over the past year.

Support

Our Facebook Support Group page delivers a key part of our mission. It is a thriving and supportive platform reaching over 500 brain tumour patients and their families sharing their experiences and advice. This helps to alleviate some of the concerns and feelings that often come with a brain tumour diagnosis and ongoing treatments and difficulties. The number of folks using the page at any one time varies according to people's changing circumstances. Our page has an international reach with members not only from the UK and other European countries but also from Australia, the Americas, Africa and even reaching Antarctica this year. This global spread reflects the fact that our focus on low grade tumours support is uncommon and that there is a real need for it.

Grant Funding



The Foyle Foundation was formed to implement the terms of the will of the late Christina Foyle. The foundation is an independent grant-making trust that distributes grants to UK charities. In 2019 we received a grant of £2,000 towards the ongoing work of raising awareness and support for sufferers of low-grade brain tumours. The bulk of the grant was spent on the redesign of our website which went live in February 2021. It has been well received by our supporters. At the beginning of the year the unspent balance of this grant (£91) was shown as a restricted reserve in our financial statements. During the year that balance has been put towards the cost of an update to the ABTF introductory leaflet which was then mailed to neuro centres around the United Kingdom.

Trustees' annual report
For the Year ended 5th April 2022

In accordance with statutory requirements and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition – Oct 2019) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS102), the Trustees submit their report for the year ended 5th April 2022. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting policies set out on page 12 and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice edition II applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland - October 2019.

Trustees

The trustees named on page 1 served throughout the financial year. Appointment of trustees is governed by the Trust Deed of the charity.

Present Trustees Mary (Treasurer), Linda (Support Group Moderator and Secretary), Robbie, Angela, Teresa, and Sam have been committed to carrying on the invaluable work of the charity. Mary has been a trustee since the fund was registered in 2009, looks after the daily administration of the charity and with husband Robbie are very active fundraisers and prime organisers of the annual Holkham Hall walk. Linda, as well as fundraising, is support co-ordinator and moderates the Facebook page. Teresa takes care of the financial accounts whilst Sam has focussed on the website. Angela acts as chair at trustee meetings. She and Linda represent the charity at any All-Party Parliamentary Group meetings at Westminster and on related calls instigated by BTR.

Investment powers

The Trust Deed authorises the trustees to make and hold investments.

Constitution, Objects and Policies

The charity's constitution is embodied in the Trust Deed. The object of the charity is to raise funds for low grade glioma research. The work of the charity is for the public benefit seeking to improve scientific knowledge, treatments, outcomes, and support in this area. To ensure that this is at the forefront of what we do the trustees have due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission when exercising their responsibilities, for example when making funding decisions. The charity has appropriate policies in place to cover e.g., management of the Facebook support group, data protection and safeguarding, recognition of fund raisers/supporters etc. The charity has no employees and therefore no policies in relation to employment.

Developments, activities, and achievements

The trustees consider that the performance of the charity for the second year has been outstanding. The increase in income over last year was £13,755; and that year was already up £10,190 up on the previous year (£12,190 if you exclude the benefit of the grant received from the prior year). In the year we invested £22,500 in research being run by Professor Denise Sheer into molecular regulation of paediatric low-grade gliomas. In the prior year there was no research investment as we went through a process to investigate suitable research projects.

Our Facebook Support Group page has been a source of strong support and information. Members are actively interacting and providing support both emotional and practical both to existing members facing periodic scans/procedures and waits for results; and also, as new patients and their families seek knowledge from those who have already been through certain treatments/tests/processes.

Financial review

The Fund derives its income from donations, fund-raising events run by the trustees and the charity's supporters, and interest on money held on deposit. Administrative expenses are small as the charity is run by volunteers and where possible the trustees seek sponsorship to cover administrative costs for larger events such as the Norfolk Family Walk.

Risk management

The trustees review the major risks that the charity faces on a regular basis and are mindful of risks such as reputational risk or mandate related risks when discussing day to day business of the charity or when considering research funding possibilities. The trustees have also examined other operational risks faced by the Charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks. The trustees reserve policy is to aim for its resources to be distributed to suitable research projects as soon as practical to meet commitments made. Where specific grants have been received amounts may be held as restricted reserves until such time as the activity supported by the grant is completed. At the end of the financial year reserves were £130,539 (prior year £83,375) of which £0 (prior year £91) were restricted reserves. The trustees believe that maintaining reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources for the future.

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to Trustees in England and Wales requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities' SORP second edition – Oct 2019 (FRS102);
- Select suitable accounting standards and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departure disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees on August 2022 and signed on their behalf.

Linda Rickford (Trustee)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Astro Brain Tumour Fund
Charity Number – 1133561

We report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 5th April 2022, on pages 5-6.

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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to: -

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act.
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities 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. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

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

A Borland F.C.A.
75 Newnham Street
Ely
Cambs CB7 4PQ

Dated 8th August 2022

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5TH APRIL 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>Incoming Resources:</u> -		
Donations and Grants	68,066	52,597
Gift Aid repayments	2,821	4,485
Interest Received	<u>123</u>	<u>173</u>
Total Income	<u>71,010</u>	<u>57,255</u>
<u>Expenditure:</u> -		
Research Funding	22,500	-
Fundraising	719	698
Restricted expenses (note 2)	91	1,530
Website hosting	300	360
Insurance	185	185
Publicity	-	-
Printing, Postage and Stationery	16	-
Miscellaneous	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>23,846</u>	<u>2,808</u>
Net Incoming Resources	47,164	54,447
Fund Balances b/fwd	<u>83,375</u>	28,928
Fund Balances c/fwd	<u>£130,539</u>	<u>£83,375</u>

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 5TH APRIL 2022

	2021	2020
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Barclays Bank	120,539	73,375
Cambridge & Counties Bank	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
 NET CURRENT ASSETS	 <u>£130,539</u>	 <u>£83,375</u>
 <u>Funds</u>		
Fund Reserves	130,539	83,284
Restricted Reserves (note 2)	=	<u>91</u>
	<u>£130,539</u>	<u>£83,375</u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees on August 2022 and signed on their behalf

Linda Rickford (Trustee)

Notes to the Accounts
For the Year ended 5th April 2022

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable UK accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102). Additionally, they comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' second edition - Oct 2019 in all material aspects. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The functional currency of the charity is Pounds Sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the charity operates.

1.3 Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of one year from the date of approval of these financial statements.

The trustees of the charity have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. There is no specific threat or relevance to ABTF from most government policies. The charity benefits from our supporters being very active fundraisers and the annual Holkham Walk being a well-supported event. We also received some legacies and some significant donations in the year which resulted in receipts being £14k up on the previous year. In addition, the charity has small, fixed overheads. The trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet funding obligations that will be tailored to fit resources and reserve policies. The charity does not take on funding commitments beyond the available reserves.

2 Restricted Reserves and Expenses

In 2019 a £2,000 grant was received from the Foyle Foundation to be utilised towards the ongoing work of raising awareness and support for sufferers of low-grade brain tumours. As at the end of 2021 £91 of the grant was unspent. During the year this balance has been put towards the cost of an update to the ABTF introductory leaflet which was then mailed to neuro centres around the United Kingdom. The grant has been fully utilised.

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1133561

Accounts

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

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ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

5TH APRIL 2021

Legal and Administrative Information

Registered Charity Number	1133561
Trustees	Mrs M Burton Mrs L Rickford Mr R Burton Ms A Scrutton Mrs T Jordan Mrs K. Ferry (to 23.04.2021) Mrs S Hopkins
Independent Examiner	Mr A Borland F.C.A. 75 Newnham Street Ely Cambs CB7 4PQ
Bankers	Barclays Bank
Correspondence address	15 Eastgate Holme Next the Sea Hunstanton Norfolk PE36 6LL

Annual Report
For the Year ended 5th April 2021

Astro Brain Tumour Fund has continued to raise money for research into low-grade tumours. These may sound benign but this slow-growing, progressive group of tumours cause inevitable life-changing and life-limiting physical and psychological symptoms and can cause death depending upon the area of the brain affected. They may also become higher grade (faster growing) over time.

Our Facebook Support Group page delivers a key part of our mission. It is a thriving and supportive platform with circa 470 brain tumour patients and their families sharing their experiences and advice. This helps to alleviate some of the concerns and feelings that often come with a brain tumour diagnosis and ongoing treatments and difficulties. Our page has an international reach with members not only from the UK, Ireland, and other European countries but also from Australia, the Americas and Africa. This global spread reflects the fact that our focus on low grade tumours support is uncommon and that there is a real need for it.

As a charity, we actively seek out ways to support research into gentler, less toxic ways of treating cancer. Whilst finding cures is our focus, we also want to ensure that any cure is bearable with the fewest side effects and leaves patients with the best possible quality of life. Without the fund-raising efforts of patients, their families, the trustees, and other supporters meeting the objectives of the charity would not be possible.

Research News

As well as receiving reports from the ongoing research that the charity is supporting, the trustees actively seek out information on new research into low grade brain tumours. The thrust of much research is into higher grade tumours so it can be hard to find research initiatives that purely fit our brief. Although the trustees are not scientists, we screen these to ensure that work we support is focussed on things that will move knowledge and/or treatments forward and have scientific rigour. One outcome that we look for is the intention to publish results of the research in accredited scientific journals as this necessitates strong scientific method in the way the research is organised, performed, recorded, and analysed.

Brain Tumour Research Centre of Excellence:

In previous financial years we invested funds into the Plymouth University Brain Tumour Research Centre of Excellence via the charity Brain Tumour Research (as that route attracted Government top up funding). During the pandemic there has been a delay in receiving research reports via BTR and in finalising the 'tiles' we had previously purchased with the investment made in March 2020. The trustees felt it was prudent to pause further investment, ring fenced for low grade brain tumours, until we have an updated understanding of the specifics of the current research plan and its progress. Research taking place in Plymouth includes:

□ New drugs for low-grade gliomas

Professor Ji-Liang Li's team are working towards a combination therapy of temozolomide plus drugs that target the tumour micro-environment in low-grade astrocytomas. For example, they are investigating drugs that affect the blood vessels that develop in the environment directly around the tumour, which can then carry nutrients in the blood to help the tumour grow.

□ **Low-grade to high-grade: Tumour genesis and transformation**

Dr Claudia Barros's team are using a brain tumour model in *Drosophila* fruit flies to study tumour-initiating cells. The team has identified genes that trigger the development of all grades of glioma brain tumours. By understanding how normal cells develop into tumour-initiating cells and then keep on fuelling those tumours, new treatments to target these cells can be developed.

New project for ABTF funding in 21/22

Molecular regulation of paediatric low-grade gliomas:

Denise Sheer, D.Phil. Professor of Human Genetics
Barts & The London School of Medicine & Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London.

The trustees have decided to support this new research (started 1st of July 2021) with a £60,000 investment over two years.

Low-grade gliomas are the most common brain tumours in children. While there have been improvements in treatment for these tumours recently, many children still suffer from long-term health problems caused by the side effects of treatment or by the tumours themselves. A better understanding of what controls the growth of these tumours is needed so that the outcome for patients can be improved. This laboratory recently identified molecules called RNA and proteins that are altered in children's low-grade gliomas. The major aim of this research programme is to determine which of these molecular changes play a role in the growth of these tumours and to understand how they do it to help the development of better treatments.

Paediatric low-grade gliomas (pLGGs) encompass histologically diverse tumours classified as WHO grades I and II. Despite their slow growth, patients with pLGGs can suffer a long progressive course with significant physical disability, and some patients unfortunately do not survive.

Pilocytic astrocytomas (WHO Grade I) account for the majority of pLGG cases. They are well-circumscribed tumours that can be cured by surgery if they are accessible. However, they occasionally arise in surgically inaccessible sites and may progress to more aggressive phenotypes, with the patients requiring chemotherapy and/or radiation. Glioneuronal tumours (WHO Grade I) most frequently affect children and adolescents but occasionally arise in adulthood. They are associated with significant morbidities as they are the most frequent cause of drug-resistant epilepsy in children.

The research programme seeks to define the crucial mechanisms downstream of aberrant MAPK/ERK signalling that regulate different cellular growth patterns observed in pLGG. Findings from the programme will significantly enhance the understanding of the fundamental molecular processes in these tumours and are directly relevant to optimising targeted therapies. This research project will complement and extend ongoing studies in the laboratory and build on its previous discoveries on epigenetic regulatory mechanisms in pLGG that were supported by the Astro Brain Tumour Fund.

Findings from the research programme will be transmitted to the scientific community through publication in leading scientific journals, presentations at scientific conferences, and seminars at the institution and other institutions. Professor Denise Sheer will ensure that publication in scientific journals is 'Open

Access', so that anyone can read it. All data will be made available in publicly available databases such as GEO to facilitate their use by the wider research community.

Attendance at Houses of Parliament and Conferences

We continue to support the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Brain Tumours but there have been no in person meetings in London in the period due to the pandemic. There has been a zoom meeting focussed on the drastic impacts the pandemic has had on charities and patients' treatments, well-being, and stress levels.

Fundraising and Donations

With much of the year impacted by Covid-19 lockdowns it was difficult to do many of the usual fundraising activities. The charity's supporters rose to the challenge with virtual challenges and other novel ways of raising funds. Events included 'Mary & Robbie's Christmas Star for Gemma', 'Tom Adams Walking Challenge for Brian Young', Linda's Birthday Fundraiser', 'Sarah Wardle's Norwich Virtual 10K Run for Gemma & Becky', 'Mark Blatherwick's charity football', 'Chloe's Fundraiser', 'Rod Barrett's 10 mile', and Julie Long had her head shaved, supporting her good friend Fraser Miller, on 1st March. This ingenuity is continuing with events such as Melissa Ireland doing a Land's End to John O'Groats virtual run/walk throughout 2021.

We were really pleased that despite the pandemic we were still able to go ahead with our largest fundraiser of the year, the walk at Holkham Hall on the 4th of October 2020. Risk assessments were done, and certain changes were made to ensure the volunteers on the day and those taking part were kept as safe as possible. No issues were reported to the trustees after the event which we were pleased about.

Thankfully the weather was quite a bit better than in the previous year and around 200 people plus lots of four legged friends took part in the walk. Some walkers were sponsored, and others made generous donations. Some of our faithful walkers were unable to attend but did "virtual Holkham" sponsored walks. Overall, almost £25,000 was raised pre-expenses, a record (circa £24,000 net of expenses)! Just over £22,230 of this was received during the year. We'd like to say a grateful thanks to everybody that helped us raise this amazing amount. 2021 will be the fifteenth year for this event with the walk scheduled for Sunday 26th September 2021.

We received £1,620 from supporters of the charity via regular standing orders. We also received several generous one-off donations totalling over £12,686 including an £8,000 legacy from the estate of James O'Brien. Interest on bank deposits and Gift Aid rebates from HMRC added a further £4,658.

In total the above comes to £57,255 which is an outstanding result in any year but especially in a year heavily impacted by the pandemic and against a background where many charities are reporting reductions in donations. The trustees would like to take this opportunity to say a very grateful thanks to all the community for all the donations and support over the past year.

Grant Funding



ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

The Foyle Foundation was formed to implement the terms of the will of the late Christina Foyle. The foundation is an independent grant-making trust that distributes grants to UK charities. Since it became operational in November 2001, The Foundation has disbursed £115.1M in grants (up to 31st December 2020).

In the previous year our trustee Sam Hopkins worked on a successful application to the Foyle Foundation for a grant under the small grants scheme and we received £2,000 on the 25th of September 2019 towards the ongoing work of raising awareness and support for sufferers of low-grade brain tumours. This grant was shown as a restricted reserve in our financial statements.

The trustees are very thankful for this support from the Foyle Foundation and allocated the bulk of the grant to redesign our website www.astrofund.org.uk and change the underlying technology to make it more secure and robust (cost £1,530 all in the current year; £91 balance of the grant not yet utilised). The guiding light in this development was Sam who managed the long process and liaised with the external consultant to feed in inputs from the other trustees. Many initial contacts to our Facebook support page come through people finding our website first (patients, their families, others working in this field). The update enhances our image whilst protecting users, makes it easy for folk to find the information they need and the links to contact us. The trustees believe that it may encourage donations and were pleased that it was well received by our supporters when it went live in February 2021.

We can now update the website directly which supports future development of content and allows us to keep it current as to events, support, and research news. Without this grant, given that donations received are spent on research, this update would not be possible.

The previous year we used a small amount of the grant (£379) on banners, inserts for leaflets, ABTF t-shirts and web support to make us more visible.

Trustees' annual report
For the Year ended 5th April 2021

In accordance with statutory requirements and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (second edition - Oct 2019) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (FRS102), the Trustees submit their report for the year ended 5th April 2021. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting policies set out on page 12 and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice edition II applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland - October 2019.

Trustees

The trustees named on page 1 served throughout the financial year. Appointment of trustees is governed by the Trust Deed of the charity.

Kathleen Ferry joined the trustees of Astro Brain Tumour Fund in March 2019 after having lost her son to a brain tumour some years before. The trustees were sad to learn in April 2021 that Kath had passed away peacefully after a short illness, surrounded by her family. She was a dedicated and committed supporter of the brain tumour cause and was well known in the brain tumour community for her kindness, compassion, and for her wonderful sense of humour. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her, not least by the charity trustees.

Present Trustees Mary (Treasurer), Linda (Support Group Moderator and Secretary), Robbie, Angela, Teresa, and Sam have been committed to carrying on the invaluable work of the charity. Mary has been a trustee since the fund was registered in 2009, looks after the daily administration of the charity and with husband Robbie are very active fundraisers. Linda, as well as fundraising, is support co-ordinator and moderates the Facebook page. Teresa takes care of the financial accounts and observed the Brain Tumour Research quintennial review of the brain tumour research centre at Plymouth University, whilst Sam has focussed on the website project. Angela and Linda represent the charity at any All-Party Parliamentary Group meetings at Westminster and on related calls instigated by BTR.

Investment powers

The Trust Deed authorises the trustees to make and hold investments.

Constitution, Objects and Policies

The charity's constitution is embodied in the Trust Deed. The object of the charity is to raise funds for low grade glioma research. The work of the charity is for the public benefit seeking to improve scientific knowledge, treatments, outcomes, and support in this area. To ensure that this is at the forefront of what we do the trustees have due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission when exercising their responsibilities, for example when making funding decisions. The charity has appropriate policies in place to cover e.g., management of the Facebook support group, data protection and safeguarding, recognition of fund raisers/supporters etc. The charity has no employees and therefore no policies in relation to employment.

Developments, activities, and achievements

The trustees consider that the performance of the charity this year has been outstanding. In the charity sector in the UK there has been downward pressure on fund raising outcomes due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, due to the efforts of our supporters, our income was £10,190 up on the previous year (£12,190 if you exclude

the benefit of the grant received from the prior year). We did not invest in research projects during the year as we were waiting upon certain reports from the centre at Plymouth and were in the process of identifying and evaluating new research opportunities. Going forward the trustees have decided to invest in research to be run by Professor Denise Sheer into molecular regulation of paediatric low-grade gliomas.

Support has been well received via our Facebook Support Group page. Members are actively interacting with each other and providing support both emotional and practical as new patients and their families seek knowledge from those who have already been through certain treatments/tests/processes

Financial review

The Fund derives its income from donations, fund-raising events run by the trustees and the charity's supporters, and interest on money held on deposit. Administrative expenses are small as the charity is run by volunteers and where possible the trustees seek sponsorship to cover administrative costs for larger events such as the Norfolk Family Walk. The trustees are very thankful that Adrian Flux Insurance Services has continued to support the walk in this way.

Risk management

The trustees review the major risks that the charity faces on a regular basis and are mindful of risks such as reputational risk or mandate related risks when discussing day to day business of the charity or when considering research funding possibilities. The trustees ensured that additional necessary covid-related risk issues were covered on the risk assessments that were completed to get the necessary clearances from the council and Holkham Hall for the annual walk. The trustees have also examined other operational risks faced by the Charity and confirm that they have established systems to mitigate the significant risks. The trustees reserve policy is to aim for its resources to be distributed to suitable research projects as soon as practical to meet commitments made. Where specific grants have been received amounts may be held as restricted reserves until such time as the activity supported by the grant is completed. At the end of the financial year reserves were £83,375 (prior year £28,928) of which £91 (prior year £1,621) were restricted reserves. The trustees believe that maintaining reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient resources for the future.

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to Trustees in England and Wales requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities' SORP second edition - Oct 2019 (FRS102);
- Select suitable accounting standards and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departure disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees on 23rd August 2021 and signed on their behalf.

Linda Rickford (Trustee)

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Astro Brain Tumour Fund Charity Number - 1133561

We report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 5th April 2021, on pages 5-6.

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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to: -

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act.
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities 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. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

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

A Borland F.C.A.
75 Newnham Street
Ely
Cambs CB7 4PQ

Dated 23rd August 2021

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5TH APRIL 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<u>Incoming Resources: -</u>		
Donations and Grants	52,597	43,537
Gift Aid repayments	4,485	2,716
Interest Received	<u>173</u>	<u>812</u>
Total Income	<u>57,255</u>	<u>47,065</u>
<u>Expenditure: -</u>		
Research Funding	-	60,380
Fundraising	698	927
Restricted expenses (note 2)	1,530	379
Website hosting 300		360
Insurance	185	196
Publicity	-	56
Printing, Postage and Stationery	-	83
Miscellaneous <u>40</u>		<u>35</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>2,808</u>	<u>62,361</u>
Net Incoming Resources	54,447	(15,296)
Fund Balances b/fwd	<u>28,928</u>	<u>44,224</u>
Fund Balances c/fwd	<u>£83,375</u>	<u>£28,928</u>

ASTRO BRAIN TUMOUR FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 5TH APRIL 2021

	2021	2020
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Barclays Bank	73,375	18,928
Cambridge & Counties Bank	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>£83,375</u>	<u>£28,928</u>
<u>Funds</u>		
Fund Reserves	83,284	27,307
Restricted Reserves (note 2)	<u>91</u>	<u>1,621</u>
	<u>£83,375</u>	<u>£28,928</u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 23rd August 2021 and signed on their behalf

Linda Rickford (Trustee)

Notes to the Accounts
For the Year ended 5th April 2021

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable UK accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102). Additionally, they comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' second edition - Oct 2019 in all material aspects. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The functional currency of the charity is Pounds Sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the charity operates.

1.3 Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of one year from the date of approval of these financial statements.

The trustees of the charity have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. There is no specific threat or relevance to ABTF from most government policies. The charity benefitted from a number of legacies and despite Covid-19 supporters found novel ways to raise significant funds. The trustees were thankful that the main annual fundraiser, the Holkham walk, could still go ahead and was well supported. These factors give the trustees some confidence that the charity can weather the continuing uncertainties around the pandemic. In addition, the charity has very small fixed overheads. The trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet funding obligations that will be tailored to fit resources and reserve policies. The charity does not take on funding commitments beyond the available reserves.

2 Restricted Reserves and Expenses

Last year a £2,000 grant was received from the Foyle Foundation to be utilised towards the ongoing work of raising awareness and support for sufferers of low-grade brain tumours. We used £1,530 on the upgrade of the website during the year and £379 of the grant last year on banners, inserts for leaflets, ABTF t-shirts and web support to make us more visible. £91 of the grant was unspent at the year end.