



Friends of the British Overseas Territories
(FOTBOT)

**Trustees' Report and
Financial Statements**

1 April 2022

to

31 March 2023

Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Number 1156763

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CHARITY INFORMATION

Trustees	Andrew M Fox (chair) Simon M J Leary FRSA Albert A Poggio GMH OBE
Address	PO Box 2635 Ilford IG1 8UA
President	Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson, JP (appointed 1 September 2021)
Vice-President	Claude Hogan, MLA (appointed 1 January 2022)
Parliamentary Advisers	Andrew Gwynne MP Andrew Rosindell MP
Chief Executive	Philip R Smith
Independent examiner	Jonathan Parsons FCA BSR Bespoke Chartered Accountants Linden House Linden Close Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 8HH
Charity number	1156763
Bankers	Barclays Bank plc 69 Albion Street Leeds LS1 5AA

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2023.

Structure, governance and management

Friends of the British Overseas Territories (FOTBOT) (the "Charity") is constituted under the terms of its governing document ("Constitution") adopted on 18 September 2013 and last amended on 24 February 2020. The Constitution is that of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members other than its Trustees. Andrew Fox was a first Trustee appointed under the constitution and the other Trustees were appointed by the Trustees and members. New Trustees are appointed by the nomination of Trustees and members. Trustees who served during the year are listed on page 2. The Trustees meet at least quarterly to agree the strategy of the Charity.

Charitable objects

The Charity's objects, as set out in its Constitution, are:

- (1) To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the British Overseas Territories and the history and geography of the British Overseas Territories
- (2) To advance the education of young people aged between 18 and 25 by providing educational visits to the British Overseas Territories
- (3) To further such other purposes as are exclusively charitable in accordance with the law of England and Wales as the Trustees may from time to time decide

Day-to-day management

On a day-to-day basis, the Charity is run by unpaid volunteers, led by the Chief Executive, Philip Smith, to whom management has been delegated by the Trustees since the Charity's inception. The Chief Executive is assisted by a committee of volunteers which includes individuals with experience in finance, public relations and media, charity governance, law and events management. Volunteers, including the Chief Executive, may be reimbursed for expenses properly and reasonably incurred in accordance with the Charity's expenses policy but they are not otherwise remunerated.

Relationships with British Overseas Territories

The Charity seeks to maintain and strengthen its relationships with UK-based representatives of the British Overseas Territories (BOTs) as well as figures within the governments of the BOTs and the UK Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA) to help further its charitable objects.

The Charity appointed a new president, Mrs Sharlene Cartwright-Robinson, former premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands, on 1 September 2021. Mrs Cartwright-Robinson replaced Mr Austin Harris Jr (a former member of the legislative assembly of the Cayman Islands) who had served as the Charity's honorary president since 18 September 2019. The Charity has also appointed its first honorary vice president, Mr Claude Hogan, a member of the legislative assembly of Montserrat, with effect from 1 January 2022. The positions of president and vice president are both honorary in nature and do not have any of the rights, obligations, duties or liabilities of a charity Trustee.

Public benefit

The Trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning the Charity's future activities. In particular, the Trustees have considered how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set. The Trustees are satisfied that the Charity continues to meet the Charity Commission's guidelines with regard to carrying out its purposes for the public benefit.

Main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to the objects

Educational activities

The Charity continued with a programme of in-person educational events, as well as remote events delivered over the internet.

Webinars included:

- A presentation on Britain's Next Prime Minister – A view from our Overseas Territories Online Event.
- An event about Gibraltar discussing its recent developments with local community members.
- A presentation on UK Antarctic Heritage Trust Webinar.

In-person events included:

- Montserrat Fundraising Reception to launch our new campaign.
- Falklands Liberation 40th Anniversary Event hosted at the National Army Museum with a Falkland Islands veteran.
- A summer barbecue in central London with special guests from a range of other charities connected with the British Overseas Territories.
- The Charity's ever-popular annual black-tie dinner at Saddlers Hall, with keynote guest speaker The Hon Lord Lancaster, former Minister for the armed forces.
- Launch of our ten year anniversary book at a reception in the City of London
- A networking reception and information sharing session in Newcastle with guest speaker Sharon Hodgson MP (and strong supporter of our charity).
- A dinner with Michael Binyon OBE Time journalist and supporter of the charity

Outreach activities

The Charity's outreach activities, which typically involve volunteers arranging visits to some of the BOTs to deepen their understanding and the Charity's links with local people and organisations took place in Gibraltar over National Day celebrations (9th to 13th September 2022).

Charity representatives also returned to the annual conference of one of the major UK political parties, having only been able to attend remotely in the previous year after the organisers cancelled the in-person event.

Montserrat special appeal

The Charity extended its appeal to raise money for the Montserrat National Trust into a second year. The Trust requires donations in order to construct an echo play area. This planned multi-functional building and park is being developed by the Montserrat National Trust with the intention of creating a fully accessible eco-friendly educational and play space for children of all ages.

Up to £2,000 will pay for individual items of equipment for the musical play area, such as the trampoline, tubular bells, xylophone, glockenspiel, and swings. FOTBOT is aiming to raise this amount to fund the individual item purchase of swings.

Achievements and performance

All of the Charity's webinars and in-person events were well-attended, with the annual black-tie dinner experiencing strong attendance as we moved to a location in the City of London for the first time.

In addition, membership subscriptions and donations continued at a steady rate, enabling the Charity to continue to reach more people and do more work in support of its objects whilst achieving a small surplus for the period and maintaining a reasonable cash reserve.

Financial review, reserves policy and deficits

The Charity's receipts in the period were £55,248 primarily driven by the strong return of well-attended in-person events. This is a significant increase on the previous year, and is nearing the level of revenues the Charity saw before the pandemic.

The Trustees have set a policy of maintaining £2000 cash reserves across the Current and Savings accounts held at Barclays. At present, reserves are above this level at £6,342 (2022: £4,849).

The Charity pays all invoices within terms, and does not have any debtors at the time of writing.

Plans for the future

In the forthcoming year, the Charity will return to its programme of outreach now that travel restrictions have been relaxed, and is planning to travel to the British Overseas Territory of St Helena. Whilst there, Charity representatives will engage with the government, and the increasing popularity of in-person activities to increase its outreach work: seeking to build and re-establish links with key stakeholders in and connected to the British Overseas Territories.

Having made an impressive contribution to the Falkland Islands Museum over the last two years, for the forthcoming year the Charity will embark on a new special appeal related to a different type of cause in a different British Overseas Territory.

Financial statements

The financial statements on pages 8 and 9 have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. They have been drawn up in compliance with the relevant provisions of the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity's Constitution.

Approved by the Trustees on 24 January 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Signature: Andrew M Fox
Andrew M Fox (Jan 26, 2024 20:25 GMT+7)

Email: foxvlad@aol.com

Andrew M Fox
Trustee (chair)

Simon Leary
Trustee



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Friends of the British Overseas Territories (the "Charity") for the period ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the "Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustees' accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Jonathan Parsons FCA
BSR Bespoke Chartered Accountants
Linden House
Linden Close
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN4 8HH

Date: 26/01/24

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Donations and grants	14,026	1,000	15,026	10,486
Members' subscriptions	5,805	-	5,805	8,039
Income from events	33,288	-	33,288	22,375
Sales of books and merchandise	1,126	-	1,126	255
Other income	2	-	2	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	54,248	1,000	55,248	41,155
PAYMENTS				
<i>Fundraising costs</i>				
Event costs	29,779	-	29,779	23,911
Printing and stationery	1,425	-	1,425	140
Website and media costs	8,221	-	8,221	555
Total fundraising costs	39,424	-	39,424	24,606
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
Donations to special appeals	-	-	-	3,000
Outreach and governance	14,331	-	14,331	13,296
Total charitable activities costs	14,331	-	14,331	16,296
<i>Asset and investment purchases</i>				
Event equipment	-	-	-	-
Computer and office equipment	-	-	-	-
Other merchandise	-	-	-	-
Total asset and investments purchases	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PAYMENTS	53,755	-	53,755	40,902
NET RECEIPTS / (PAYMENTS)	493	1,000	1,493	253
CASH FUNDS LAST YEAR END	4,849	-	4,849	4,596
CASH FUNDS THIS YEAR END	5,342	1,000	6,342	4,849

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AT 31 MARCH 2023**

	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
ASSETS				
<i>Monetary assets</i>				
Cash at bank	5,342	1,000	6,342	4,849
Total monetary assets	5,342	1,000	6,342	4,849
<i>Non-monetary assets</i>				
Computer equipment	1,426	-	1,426	1,426
Event equipment	956	-	956	956
Copies of book "Britain's Distant Lands"	640	-	640	798
Copies of DVD "Britain's Distant Lands"	140	-	140	742
Other merchandise	429	-	429	429
Total non-monetary assets	3,591	-	3,591	4,351
TOTAL ASSETS	8,933	1,000	9,933	9,200
LIABILITIES				
	-	-	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)	8,933	1,000	9,933	9,200

The notes on page 10 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Trustees on 24 January and signed on their behalf by:

Signature: Andrew M Fox
Andrew M Fox (Jan 26, 2024 20:25 GMT+7)

Email: foxvlad@aol.com

Andrew M Fox
Trustee (chair)

Simon Leary
Trustee

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

1. These financial statements are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, with all revenue and expenses shown on a cash basis. Non-monetary assets and liabilities are shown at estimates of the value at the end of the period.
2. No remuneration or expenses were paid to any Trustee.

FOTBOT Trustees Report and Financial Statements 2023

Final Audit Report

2024-01-26

Created:	2024-01-25
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