

THE SIKH MEMORIAL FUND

England & Wales · Charity number 1160515

Details

Other names	WW1 SIKH MEMORIAL FUND
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2015-02-16
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	55 Underwood Road Birmingham B20 1JR
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Website	sikhatwar.wordpress.com

Activities

Objects: THE CREATION AND MAINTANENCE OF A PUBLIC WAR MEMORIAL HONOURING SIKH SOLDIERS IN THE GREAT WAR.

Activities: To create and maintain public memorials in memory of Sikhs who fought during World War One.To lead education and awareness programmes that highlight the Sikh contribution to Britain.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Birmingham City
- Sandwell
- Staffordshire
- Walsall
- Wolverhampton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£0	£20	-	-
2024-03-31	£0	£164	-	-
2023-03-31	£0	£472	-	-
2022-03-31	£150	£170	-	-
2021-03-31	£0	£268	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Captain Jagjeet Singh-Sohal VR	Chair	2015-01-01
M S SOHAL		2015-09-03

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT: THE SIKH MEMORIAL FUND

April 2024 - March 2025

WW1 SIKH MEMORIAL FUND

Charity number 1160515

Chairman: J. Singh-Sohal

Trustees: Dr Pavandeep Sandhu, Manjit Sohal

Secretary: Sukhmani Vig

Annual Report April 2024 – March 2025

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year we marked our 10th anniversary of the creation of the WW1 Sikh Memorial.

We gathered on the first Sunday of November at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

It was a wonderful occasion where we once more had a wide range of community attendees as well as supporters of our work.

As a poignant reminder of our work in connecting our glorious past to inspire our future, I had the privilege of laying our remembrance wreath alongside my father Sardar Harpal Singh and my 5 year old son.



Capt. J. Singh-Sohal VR
Chairman

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

SIKH MEMORIAL FUND: INCOME and EXPENDITURE for 01 April 2024 - 31 March 2025				
Date		Expenditure	Income	Notes
	Balance carried		33.55	
13/11/2024	NMA Wreath 2024	20		NMA Wreath for event ceremony
	Totals	20	33.55	
	Account Balance	13.55		

Ends.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Whilst continuing our enduring commitment to lead a Sikh Remembrance service at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA), the Sikh Memorial Fund has also spent the year active in engaging in events and talks around the country.

In July 2023 we supported the Commonwealth War Graves Foundation at the NMA during War Graves Week. We also visited the Cadets in Solihull, to screen one of our films and detail the Indian contribution during the war.

We continued to develop our relationship with the RBL Warwickshire, who have been very supportive and inclusive of our efforts. This includes helping organise a prestigious and unique event at Solihull Civic Centre, a *langar* or Sikh communal kitchen for veterans at which we spoke about the Sikh contribution. We also supported an event at the Armed Forces Garden.

In November 2023, alongside our NMA event, we also attended to support Remembrance at several events in Solihull. The first was a local community event. And on Armistice Day itself we attended the Candle Lighting ceremony at St Alphege Church and paraded in Solihull town centre.

We have seen much enthusiasm for our work and many invitations to come and speak to community groups, which our volunteers have undertaken. In 2024 we will be marking our 10th anniversary of the Sikh Memorial, so will be developing our relationships with that in mind, particular on Warwickshires Armed Forces Day which we have been invited to attend, speak and support.

All these events help us drive awareness of the Sikh contribution but also the national site at the NMA which we always encourage people to visit.

At the NMA event in November, our special guest was Elaine Butler, the President of the RBL Warwickshire and Birmingham, who spoke about her relative who'd fought in the war and the importance of our Commonwealth allies. The event was a great success once more, with representatives of diverse communities. New links were made and invitations assured for future engagements and speaking events.

Overall, a busy year but with much achieved as we head towards our 10th anniversary.

Capt. J. Singh-Sohal VR
Chairman

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

SIKH MEMORIAL FUND: INCOME and EXPENDITURE for 01 April 2023 - 31 March 2024				
Date		Expenditure	Income	Notes
	Balance carried		197.79	
02/11/2023	Website costs - paid by Director	144.24		Website costs, month fee + hosting, from April '22 to March '23
15/11/2023	NMA Wreath 2023	20		NMA Wreath for event ceremony
	Totals	164.24	197.79	
	Account Balance	33.55		

ANNUAL WW1 SIKH MEMORIAL GATHERING: NOVEMBER 2023

On the first Sunday of November we gathered at the Sikh Memorial, joined by guests.



Ends.

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Annual Report April 2022 – March 2023

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year The Sikh Memorial Fund has been engaging more with interested parties through social media and looking for opportunities to encourage more visitors to attend on our annual gathering.

This year we were pleased to be joined by the Sikh Bikers group, who have been showing great interest in marking Sikh commemorations up and down the country.

We were also contacted by a Shropshire artist, Lisa Pitchford, who painted a wonderful image of the Sikh soldier monument. She gifted this to us, and we will now be touring this up and down the country to encourage interest in the Sikh contribution (see below).

As a side note to this, we requested Lisa to print and frame smaller editions of her much larger painting, which we have begun to gift to special guests and VIPs. The first of whom was the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak MP in April 2023.

As we go forward, we will have to decide how best to continue our annual commitment to mark Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum on a light-weight basis for this organisation and those involved.

Capt. J. Singh-Sohal VR
Chairman

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

SIKH MEMORIAL FUND: INCOME and EXPENDITURE for 01 April 2022 - 31 March 2023				
Date		Expenditure	Income	Notes
	Balance carried		670.44	
10/11/2022	Directors expenses occurred, clear outstanding arrears	192.65		2021-22 expenses incurred at NMA, incl NMA event hospitality for guests, Op Games children's event. Backlog in payments cleared.
16/11/2022	NMA Wreath 2022	18		NMA Wreath for event ceremony
08/02/2023	Lisa Pitchford Prints	262		Memorial prints for VIP engagements
		Totals	472.65	670.44
		Account Balance	197.79	

SIKH SOLDIER IMAGE GIFTED BY ARTIST LISA PITCHFORD



ANNUAL WW1 SIKH MEMORIAL GATHERING: NOVEMBER 2023

On the first Sunday of November we gathered at the Sikh Memorial, joined by xxx



Ends.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT: THE SIKH MEMORIAL FUND

April 2021 - March 2022

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Trustees: Dr Pavandeep Sandhu, Manjit Sohal

Secretary: Sukhmani Vig

Annual Report April 2021 – March 2022

Published in December 2022

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Sikh Memorial Fund has had a year of decent recovery following COVID 19 lockdowns. This year we were able to host our regular annual event, which attracted a very good crowd.

On 1st November, as is always the case, the fund organised an event ahead of the national Remembrance Day to remember Sikh service and sacrifice during the World Wars. This time, engagement was undertaken with personnel attending and lunch provided in the Arboretum café which enabled a chance to network with supporters. A Scout troop from Leicester joined our ceremony and were given a talk at the memorial about the Sikh contribution as well as had the opportunity to ask questions.

We were also approached by a film company looking to utilise some of our memorial imagery, and this provided an opportunity to bring in some funds via a licensing fee to support our annual event.

Our websites, which had been offline due to some coding issues, were brought back to life by volunteers who helped debug the site. This means we now have a functioning online presence once more, where we can continue to promote our research and encourage visits to the Sikh memorial.

Looking towards the future, we will need to see how we can increase participation with visits to the WW1 Sikh Memorial all-year round and not just at Remembrance time. We will engage with National Memorial Arboretum about this and seek other partnerships also.

Capt. J. Singh-Sohal VR
Chairman

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

SIKH MEMORIAL FUND: INCOME and EXPENDITURE for 01 April 2021 - 31 March 2022					
	Date		Expenditure	Income	Notes
		Balance carried		690.27	
	09/11/2021	Directors expenses occurred, clear outstanding arrears	149.83		2019, 2020 expenses incurred at NMA and for postage of education packs 2019-20. Backlog in payments
	22/12/2021	NMA Wreath 2021	20		NMA Wreath for event ceremony
	18/02/2022	Licensing fee from Thread Films		150	Thread Film production, licensing of WW1 Sikh Memorial imagery
		Totals	169.83	840.27	
		Account Balance	670.44		

ANNUAL WW1 SIKH MEMORIAL GATHERING: NOVEMBER 2021

On the first Sunday of November we gathered at the Sikh Memorial, joined by members of the community and special visitors (Scout troop from Leicester pictured below).



Ends.

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April 2020 - March 2021

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Chairman: J. Singh-Sohal

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Secretary: Sukhmani Vig

Annual Report April 2020 – March 2021

Published in January 2022

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Sikh Memorial Fund has had a difficult year in 2020 due to COVID-19 and the impact this has had on gatherings. Nonetheless, the "WW1 Sikh Memorial" was host to two major commemoration events this year, and our officers did a sterling job assisting in organising both.

On 12th September, the memorial hosted the annual commemoration of Saragarhi Day. The National Memorial Arboretum grounds proved perfect for allowing a large contingent of Armed Forces personnel to safely gather outdoors and at a social distance, to be able to pay their respects on the battle honour day. Wreaths were laid and speeches made, and the entire event was filmed by the British Army and shared across all of Defence' social media platforms. Thus, I'm pleased the Sikh memorial was able to reach new audiences in this virtual way.

On 1st November, as is always the case, the fund organised an event ahead of the national Remembrance Day to remember Sikh service and sacrifice during the World Wars. Once more we were restricted by rules around gathering, and so could only allow six people to attend to lay wreaths. This opportunity was given to representative members of the Army and RAF as well as (for the first time) members of the Police with officers from West Midlands attending. Despite the small number, it was an intimate occasion to create new friendships with police representatives and I hope they will continue to visit the Sikh Memorial with their colleagues when they visit the new Police memorial when it is unveiled.

The fund was content that the limit to social events saw a significant reduction in budgetary lines with no donations received to support our work. This meant our five volunteers associated with the fund and our trustees continued to give their time when they could in support of the charity. Nonetheless, we supported the Saragarhi event with a professional photographer to use the opportunity to gather images and material for wider distribution and marketing purposes in future.

Capt. J. Singh-Sohal VR
Chairman

ANNUAL WW1 SIKH MEMORIAL GATHERING: NOVEMBER 2020

On the first Sunday of November, as per usual, we gathered at the Sikh Memorial albeit in much smaller numbers due to COVID restrictions restricting us to six people only. Representatives of the Police Constabulary joined members of the Army, Navy and RAF to pay tribute to Sikh service. Despite this, we were able to share the small gathering with our followers and supports online.



SARAGARHI DAY COMMEMORATION: SEPTEMBER 2020

Saragarhi Day is an annual commemoration of an epic battle that took place on the North West Frontier (modern day Pakistan near the Afghanistan border) in 1897. It is a commemoration day that has been marked in the UK since 2013 by the British Army, and since our Chairman Capt. Jay Singh-Sohal rekindled interest in it by bringing back to the UK the official marking of the battle honour day in 2013 (it had previously been marked each year since Independence in 1947 by the Indian Army as the regiment involved is an Indian one). Due to COVID restrictions this large community event was scaled back. We were pleased therefore to assist the British Army and Defence Sikh Network in hosting the commemoration day at the WW1 Sikh Memorial. The event was attended by representations of the Army, Royal Navy and RAF as well as Major General Celia Harvey who is the Deputy Commander of the Field Army.



Ends.