

BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING

England & Wales · Charity number 1161671

Details

Other names BCS READING

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2015-05-14

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

Contact

Address 22 Armour Hill
Tilehurst
Reading
RG31 6JP

Phone 01189416783

Email bcsreading@gmail.com

Website www.bcsreading.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC IN READING AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS: A) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN BENGALI AND INDIAN CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND HERITAGE, INCLUDING THE MUSIC, ART, LITERATURE, TRADITIONS AND HISTORY OF BENGAL AND INDIA IN SUCH WAYS AS THE TRUSTEES MAY DETERMINE. B) TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE INFIRMITY OR DISABILITY, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE AND C) SUCH CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AS ARE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF ENGLAND AND WALES AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE.

Activities: We organise a series of cultural, art and heritage related programmes that are usually delivered free of charge, on a charitable basis, to all participants and the audience.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Reading

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	-	-	-	-
2024-03-31	£63,780	£51,942	-	-
2023-03-31	£45,667	£48,066	-	-
2022-03-31	£21,293	£20,465	-	-
2021-03-31	£10,993	£4,322	-	-
2020-03-31	£36,043	£27,525	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Aditi Chaudhury		2024-06-07
Archana Das		2022-05-22
Arpita Talukder		2023-05-13
Avik Mitra		2024-06-07
Chandan Bhowmik		2021-08-07
Gaurav Kumar Sharma		2025-05-31
Nilmadhab Mandal		2024-06-07
RATNA GHOSH		2021-08-07
SANJOY PAUL		2021-08-07
Suvayan Sengupta		2025-05-31

BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING

England & Wales - Charity number 1161671

Accounts

Bengali Cultural Society, Reading
Charity Reg. No : 1161671

Accounts
For the period ended 31 March 2024

Payslip Accountants
Accountants & Tax Advisers

Bengali Cultural Society, Reading

Independent examiner's report on accounts

For the period ended 31 March 2024

Independent examiner's report to trustees of Bengali Cultural Society, Reading

The trustees of the charity are responsible for preparing the financial statements and ensuring compliance with applicable accounting regulations. In accordance with Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011, the trustees have determined that an audit is not required for this financial period and that an independent examination is sufficient.

As an independent examiner, my responsibilities include:

- Conducting an examination of the charity's accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011
- Following the procedures set out in the general Directions issued by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act.
- Reporting on any matters of concern identified during the examination.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination has been carried out in accordance with the general Directions prescribed by the Charity Commission. The scope of the examination included:

- Reviewing the accounting records maintained by the charity.
- Comparing the financial statements with the underlying records.
- Assessing any unusual items or disclosures within the accounts and obtaining necessary explanations from the trustees.

It is important to note that an independent examination does not provide the same level of assurance as an audit. The procedures undertaken do not constitute an audit and therefore do not enable me to express an opinion as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view. My report is limited to the findings outlined 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; and
 - 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.

Sumon Roy,
MAAT(Licensed Accountant)
Payslip Accountants
141 Victoria Road
Swindon
SN1 3BU



BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING

Charity Registration No: 1161671

Report of the Trustees for the year ended on 31 March 2024 (Unaudited)

Activities:

The principal aim of BCS is to facilitate activities and events appropriate for the community, to raise awareness among the public by providing them with the opportunity to participate and appreciate the nature of Indian and Bengali culture. With this objective in mind, we organised the following events in the year:

Amit Kumar Live show @Hexagon
Independence Day Celebration
Mahalaya with Arunangshu Roy Live show
Dandiya
11th Reading Autumn Festival/Durga Puja
Bijaya Sammeloni
Pous Parbon
Saraswati Puja
Dol Utsab

Website revamp:

We spent **£350** during the month of June'23 to revamp our organization's website <https://bcsreading.co.uk>. We have consolidated all our websites to a single website for easy access for the viewers

Capital investment:

We organise social gatherings & events frequently. Keeping in mind the requirement

Independent Examiners of the Accounts:

According to the regulations of the Charity Commission, where a charity's annual income is in excess of £25,000 the Trustees must arrange for an Independent Person or Accountancy Firm to carry out an independent examination of its accounts. As the gross income of BCS for 2023/24 was above this threshold, the Trustees decided to arrange independent examination of BCS accounts for 2023/24. Trustees are, however, satisfied that the Report of Trustees and Annual Accounts of BCS being presented herewith give a true and fair view of affairs of BCS.

Financial Review:

BCS Trustees manage the finances in a way that enables the charity to carry out its charitable purposes most effectively as set out in the objective's clause of the constitution. Our principal funding sources are individual donations, commercial sponsorships at events, ticket sales and membership fees. There was no formal fund raising in the year 2023/24. It has been a uniquely challenging year due to high cost of commodities & unavailability of our regular venue for organizing Durga Puja but thanks to our financial prudence we have ensured that there was no significant depletion to our cash reserves from the previous year. Despite several fund generating avenues drying up during and after the pandemic, we are pleased that we had been able to maintain financial help of the organization.

Amit Kumar Live show@Hexagon

BCS Organized ever-exuberant Bollywood playback singer and composer, Amit Kumar Live show on 21st May 2023 at Rivermead Leasure Centre, Reading. The show was attended by 1200+ people

Mahalaya with Arunangshu Roy Live show

BCS organised Mahalaya at Coronation Hall, Woodley where 200+ people attended the function followed by dinner

Dandiya:

This is the very first time BCS organised Dandiya to engage people from all parts of India. This was a huge success where 700+ people from in and around Reading actively participated at the same venue where we organised Durga Puja.

11th Reading Autumn Festival/Durga Puja:

This was a very special event as we celebrated 11th year of Durga puja. This also provided BCS Trustee Board an opportunity to assess our ability to conduct further in-person events. 10th edition of Sharad Utsav/Reading Autumn Festival was organised in October at Emmbrook School. It was a successful event with circa 10000 visitors gracing the event over 5 days. Durga Puja was special last year as this was our 11th year of Celebration, and we had for the first time a "Panch Chala" Pratima. This event worked as catalyst to rebuild the community connection after a difficult lockdown period.

Bijoya Sammeloni:

We organised Bijoya Sammeloni immediately after Durga Puja to have a get together as per our tradition. This was a day long cultural program by BCS members and renowned local singers which was followed by snacks and late lunch.

Poush Parbon:

Poush Parbon is one big example of culinary diversity among Bengalis. In this we had the BCS ladies provide us the opportunity to have different varieties of 'Pithe' an essential part of Poush Parbon. The ladies also prepared different street food and snacks from Kolkata.

Saraswati Puja:

BCS organised a bigger place this year to accommodate more people to attend Saraswati Puja. The event was attended by almost 400+ visitors. Almost 20 kids were given "**Hate Khori**" during this year's Saraswati Puja. We have served bhog to all attendees towards the end of event.

Charitable Donations:

The Trust has a policy of actively identifying and donating appropriate financial aid to charities of worthy causes. This year we donated a total of **£50** to Local Charity

Membership:

Several new members have joined the Society during the year as well as some previous members moving away from Reading leaving our membership strength at 165.

Trustees:

Consequent to the registration of BCS as a Charity, the management and administration of its affairs rest with the Board of Trustees. At the AGM held on May 2023, the following were elected to the Board of Trustees and the Charity Commission had been notified accordingly.

They were –

Abhijit Chakrabarti (Chairperson), Sanjoy Paul (Treasurer), Aniruddha Bandopadhyay & Archana Das (Jt. General Secretary), Ratna Ghosh, Chandan Kanti Bhowmik, Himanshu Dey, Rana Ray, Surajit Biswas, Arpita Talukder & Priyanandini Sarkar,

In accordance with the provisions of the constitution, the current Trustees will retire at the end of the AGM to be held on or before the maximum frame of 15 months from the last AGM. The retiring Trustees are eligible to seek re-election.

BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR

	2023-24	2022-23
INCOMING RESOURCES	£	£
Members' Subscription	1795	1370
BCS Activities	58313.51	44209.3
Interest Received	446.55	87.3
Gift Aid	2875.25	NIL
Others (Water fest)	350	0
Total	<u>63,780.31</u>	<u>45,666.60</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
BCS Activities	49523.4	36560.23
ICA Subscription	232.5	250
Charitable Donations	50	900
Others	2135.76	2235.73
Total	<u>51,941.66</u>	<u>39,945.96</u>
NET INCOMING RESOURCES for the Year	<u>11,838.65</u>	<u>5,720.64</u>
Brought Forward Balance on 01 April	44,162	38,441
Provision - Aastha Gill/Amit Kumar	15000	5624
Cash in Hand	1615	1411.5
PayPal	55	55
Amount in Bank (Charity Account)	14430.01	11881.74
Amount in Bank (BMM Account)	25636.39	25189.84
Carry Forward Balance on 31 March	<u>56736.4</u>	<u>44162.08</u>

BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31 MARCH 2024

	2023-24	2022-23
Member's Subscription	£	£
Received during the period	1795	1370
 BCS Activities		
Income	£	£
Badminton Tournament	198	—
Football Tournament	105	105
15th August Celebration	420	—
Mahalaya	1335	50
Dandya	2600	1812
Reading Autumn Festival	36396.31	37632
Bijoya Sammeloni	—	304
Poush Parbon Festival	30	711.27
Saraswati Puja	1508	1095.03
Basanta Utsab	213	—
Amit Kumar Program	15459.1	—
Reading Borough Council Grant	—	2500
Children's Festival	49.1	—
Total	58313.51	44209.3

Expenses

Badminton Tournament	245.5	—
15th August Celebration	486.09	—
Football Tournament	100	199.78
Mahalaya	1169.96	115
Dandya	234.49	1805.99
Reading Autumn Festival (Durga Puja)	24530.14	30083.8
Bijoya Sammeloni	825.00	1035.09
Poush Parbon Festival	654.70	904.24
Saraswati Puja	1183.78	1124.33
Basanta Utsab	317.42	—
Protima + Transport	—	3028
AGM	1862	—
Bank charge and other exp	2268.4	60
Amit Kumar Program	15364	—
Children's Festival	281.92	—
Total	49523.4	38356.23

Accounting Policies

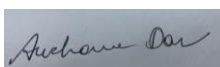
The following accounting policies are used consistently with items that are considered material in relation to the accounts:

- (a) Basis of accounting: The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention
- (b) Income & Expenses: The income and expenses are stated using the "accruals" concept

Report and Financial Statement Signed By:



Abhijit Chakrabarty
Chairperson



Archana Das
Joint Secretary



Sanjoy Paul
Treasurer

BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING

England & Wales - Charity number 1161671

Accounts

Bengali Cultural Society, Reading
Charity Reg. No : 1161671

Accounts
For the period ended 31 March 2023

Payslip Accountants
Accountants & Tax Advisers

Bengali Cultural Society, Reading
Independent examiner's report on accounts
For the period ended 31 March 2023

Independent examiner's report to trustees of Bengali Cultural Society, Reading

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 statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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; and
 - 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.

Sumon Roy, MAAT (Licensed Accountant)
Payslip Accountants
141 Victoria Road
Swindon
SN1 3BU

BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING

Charity Registration No: 1161671

Report of the Trustees for the year ended on 31 March 2023 (Unaudited)

The Board of Trustees of the Bengali Cultural Society, Reading ('BCS') presents the following report for the year 2022/23 to the members.

Activities:

The principal aim of BCS is to facilitate activities and events appropriate for the community, to raise awareness among the public by providing them with the opportunity to participate and appreciate the nature of Indian and Bengali culture. With this objective in mind, we organised the following events in the year:

- ✓ **Football Tournament**
- ✓ **Mahalaya**
- ✓ **Dandiya**
- ✓ **10th Reading Autumn Festival/Durga Puja**
- ✓ **Bijoya Sammeloni**
- ✓ **Pous Parbon**
- ✓ **Saraswati Puja**

As we have crossed turbulent times during covid, we are now back to the natural rhythm of life after almost 2 years. We have started organizing regular event of BCS is full swing where all our members, patrons and well-wishers have started visiting all events in person.

Football Tournament

We organised Football tournament on 10th September at Rivermead Leisure Centre where 6 teams across different part of UK participated. It was an all-day fun and both the participants and spectators had thoroughly enjoyed.

Mahalaya

We organised Mahalaya at Coronation Hall, Woodley where 200+ people attended the function. This was the first gathering without covid restriction after a gap of almost 2 years.

Dandiya:

This is the very first time BCS organised Dandiya to engage people from all parts of India. This was a huge success where 700+ people from in and around Reading actively participated at the same venue where we organised Durga Puja.

10th Reading Autumn Festival/Durga Puja:

This was a very special event as we celebrated 10th year of Durga puja. This also provided BCS Trustee Board an opportunity to assess our ability to conduct further in-person events. 10th edition of Sharad Utsav/Reading Autumn Festival was organised in October at Rivermead Leisure Centre. It was a successful event with circa 10000 visitors gracing the event over 5 days. Durga Puja was special last year as this was our 10th year of Celebration and we had for the first time a "Panch Chala" Pratima. This event worked as catalyst to rebuild the community connection after a difficult lockdown period.

Bijoya Sammeloni:

We organised Bijoya Sammeloni immediately after Durga Puja to have a get together as per our tradition. This was a day long cultural program by BCS members and renowned local singers which was followed by snacks and late lunch.

Poush Parbon:

Poush Parbon is one big example of culinary diversity among Bengalis. In this we had the BCS ladies provide us the opportunity to have different varieties of 'Pithe' an essential part of Poush Parbon. The ladies also prepared different street food and snacks from Kolkata.

Saraswati Puja:

We organised a bigger place this year to accommodate more people to attend Saraswati Puja. The event was attended by almost 400+ visitors. Almost 20 kids were given "Hate Khori" during this year's Saraswati Puja. We have served bhog to all attendees towards the end of event.

Charitable Donations:

The Trust has a policy of actively identifying and donating appropriate financial aid to charities of worthy causes. This year we donated a total of £900 to Sarada Math.

Website revamp:

We spent £638.58 during the month of June'22 to revamp our organization's website <https://www.bcsreading.com>. We have consolidated all our websites to a single website and integrated PayPal payment mechanism with our website so that event tickets, donations & Membership fees can be paid through online.

Membership:

Several new members have joined the Society during the year as well as some previous members moving away from Reading leaving our membership strength at 161.

Trustees:

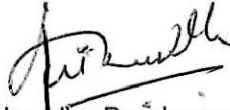
Consequent to the registration of BCS as a Charity, the management and administration of its affairs rest with the Board of Trustees. At the AGM held on 20th May 2022, the following were elected to the Board of Trustees and the Charity Commission had been notified accordingly. They were –

Abhijit Chakrabarti (Chairperson), Sanjoy Paul (Treasurer), Aniruddha Bandyopadhyay (Jt. General Secretary), Archana Das (Jt. General Secretary), Ratna Ghosh, based on her Chandan Kanti Bhowmik, Himangshu Dey, Rana Ray. Gouri Dey had joined the trustee board at a later point in time previous contribution for various BCS cultural activities.

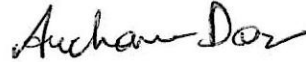
In accordance with the provisions of the constitution, the current Trustees will retire at the end of the AGM to be held on or before the maximum frame of 15 months from the last AGM conducted on 20th May 2022. The retiring Trustees are eligible to seek re-election.



Abhijit Chakrabarti
Chairperson



Aniruddha Bandyopadhyay
Jt. General Secretary



Archana Das



Sanjoy Paul
Treasurers

Dated: 14th February 2024

Bengali Cultural Society, Reading
Receipts and payments accounts
For the period ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Year 2023 Total funds to the nearest £	Year 2022 Total funds to the nearest £
Receipts			
Members' Subscription		1370.00	1089.00
BCS Activities		44209.30	21293.00
Interest received		87.30	3.00
Other			14.00
Sub total (Gross income for AR)		45666.60	22399.00
Total receipts		45666.60	22399.00
Payments			
BCS Activities			
Summer Fiesta			1315.00
Football Tournament		199.78	
Mahalaya		115.00	
Dandiya		1805.99	
10th Reading Autumn Festival (Durga Puja)		30083.80	17566.00
Bijoya Sammeloni		1135.09	
Pous Parbon		904.24	
Saraswati Puja		1124.33	957.00
Basanta Utsab			627.00
Protima and Transport		3028.00	
Bank Charge		60.00	
Total BCS activities payments		38456.23	20465.00
ICA subscription		250.00	85.00
Charitable donations		900.00	808.00
Expense for Amit Kumar		5624.00	
Accountancy fees		600.00	
Others		2235.73	2330.00
Sub total		9609.73	3223.00
Total payments		48065.96	23688.00
Net of receipts/(payments)		(2399.36)	(1289.00)
Surplus funds from year end 2022		38441.00	39730.00
Surplus/(deficit) funds year end 31 Mar 2023		36041.64	38441.00

Bengali Cultural Society, Reading
Statement of assets and liabilities
As at 31 March 2023

Categories	Details
Current Assets	Paypal
	Cash in hand and at bank
	Debtors & Prepayments
	Total current assets

2023	2022
Total funds to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £
55.00	0.00
38483.08	42851.66
0.00	225.00
38538.08	43076.66

Current Liabilities	Details
	Payment Due
	Total current liabilities

Total current liabilities to nearest £	Total current liabilities to nearest £
600.00	150.00
600.00	150.00

Provisions	Details
	New Idol (Protima)
	Total provisions

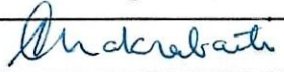

Total provisions to nearest £	Total provisions to nearest £
0.00	4485.00
0.00	4485.00

Net Asstets

37938.08	38441.66
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Members' Fund	Details
	Members' fund
	Total Members's fund

Total members' fund to nearest £	Total members' fund to nearest £
37938.08	38441.66
37938.08	38441.66

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date Of Approval
a.		Mr. Abhijit Chakrabarti	25/4/2024
b.		Mr. Sanjoy Paul	25/04/2024

BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING

England & Wales - Charity number 1161671

Accounts



BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING

Charity Registration No: 1161671

Report of the Trustees for the year ended on 31 March 2022

The Board of Trustees of the Bengali Cultural Society, Reading ('BCS') presents the following report for the year 2021/22 to the members.

Activities:

The principal aim of BCS is to facilitate activities and events appropriate for the community, to raise awareness among the public by providing them with the opportunity to participate and appreciate the nature of Indian and Bengali culture. With this objective in mind, we organised the following events in the year:

- Summer Fiesta
- 9th Reading Autumn Festival/Durga Puja
- Saraswati Puja
- Vasanta Utsav

Owing to COVID-19 restrictions, all the events during 2020-2021 were conducted remotely. However, with gradually improving pandemic situation, BCS conducted the events during 2021-2022 in-person. There were restrictions in place and appropriate safety procedures were operationalised to ensure safety of the visitors and volunteers. The first event BCS organised was Summer Fiesta, where members and guests got together for the first time after more than a year and half. This also provided BCS boards an opportunity to assess our ability to conduct further in-person events. 9th edition of Sharad Utsav/Reading Autumn Festival was organised in October at Rivermead Leisure Centre. BCS chose to keep the event low key to control footfall and ensure safety of the visitors. It was a successful event with circa 3000 visitors gracing the event and over 5 days. However, this is significantly lower than the past years, owing to health and safety restrictions at the wake of pandemic. This event worked as catalyst to rebuild the community connection after a difficult lockdown period. Success of Autumn Festival led to first open event of 2022 – Saraswati Puja, where restrictions were reduced significantly in line with public health advisories issued by the government agencies. Almost 200 visitors attended the event.

Charitable Donations:

The Trust has a policy of actively identifying and donating appropriate financial aid to charities of worthy causes. This year we donated a total of £808 to Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Rotary Club International, Sewa UK and British Asian Trust towards the COVID-19 relief works in India.

Independent Examiners of the Accounts:

According to the regulations of the Charity Commission, where a charity's annual income is in excess of £25,000 the Trustees must arrange for an Independent Person or Accountancy Firm to carry out an independent examination of its accounts. As the gross income of BCS for 2021/22 was below this

threshold, the Trustees decided that they are not required to arrange independent examination of BCS accounts for 2020/21. Trustees are, however, satisfied that the Report of Trustees and Annual Accounts of BCS being presented herewith give a true and fair view of affairs of BCS.

Financial Review:

BCS Trustees manage the finances in a way that enables the charity to carry out its charitable purposes most effectively as set out in the objective's clause of the constitution. Our principal funding sources are individual donations, commercial sponsorships at events, ticket sales and membership fees. There was no formal fund raising in the year 2021/22. It has been a uniquely challenging year but thanks to our financial prudence and gradual return to normalcy we have ensured that there was no significant depletion to our cash reserves from the previous year. Despite several fund generating avenues drying up during and after the pandemic, we are pleased that we had been able to provide financial help for deserving causes.

After allowing for a restricted reserve of £4485 for new Protima, the total accumulated income, from all sources, available for BCS future activities on 31st March 2022 stood at £38,441. This represents a net decrease of £1289 or 3.2% during the reporting year compared to the previous year's figure of £39,730. Presently the Board has not identified the need to earmark any of the surplus funds for investment or other purposes, although the matter would be kept under review.

The Board considered the risks BCS faces and identified the main risk for next year as the potential impact to fundraising income in the prevailing environment of although improving, but still volatile situation involving public gathering and movement of people. The Board continues to review practical ways of funding and delivering events.

Membership:

Several new members have joined the Society during the year as well as some previous members moving away from Reading leaving our membership strength at 149.

Trustees:

Consequent to the registration of BCS as a Charity, the management and administration of its affairs rest with the Board of Trustees. At the AGM held on 7th August 2021, the following were elected to the Board of Trustees and the Charity Commission had been notified accordingly. They were –

Abhijit Chakrabarti (Chairperson), Sanjoy Paul (Joint Treasurer), Arijitkamal Manna (Joint Treasurer), Aniruddha Bandyopadhyay (General Secretary), Ratna Ghosh, Chandan Kanti Bhowmik, Himangshu Dey and Hrishik Bose.

In accordance with the provisions of the constitution, the current Trustees will retire at the end of the AGM to be held on or before the maximum frame of 15 months from the last AGM conducted on 7th August 2021. The retiring Trustees are eligible to seek re-election.

Abhijit Chakrabarti *Chairperson*

Sanjoy Paul, Arijitkamal Manna *Joint Treasurers*

Aniruddha Bandyopadhyay *General Secretary*

Abhijit Chakrabarti
Sanjoy Paul | *Arijitkamal Manna*
Aniruddha

Dated: 20th May 2022

BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 01 APRIL 2021 TO 31 MARCH 2022

	<i>Note</i>	2021-2022	2020-2021
<i>INCOMING RESOURCES</i>		£	£
Members' Subscription	<i>1</i>	1,089	907
BCS Activities	<i>2</i>	21,293	4,384
Interest Received		3	12
Gift Aid			5,679
Others	<i>3</i>	14	12
Total		22,399	10,994
<i>RESOURCES EXPENDED</i>		£	£
BCS Activities	<i>2</i>	20,465	2,378
ICA Subscription		85	50
Charitable Donations		808	547
Others	<i>3</i>	2,330	1,347
Total		23,688	4,322
<i>NET INCOMING RESOURCES for the Year</i>			6,672
<i>NET OUTGOING RESOURCES for the Year</i>		1,289	
Brought Forward Balance on 01 April		39,730	33,058
Carry Forward Balance on 31 March		38,441	39,730

BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31 MARCH 2022

	<i>Note</i>	2021-2022	2020-2021
		£	£
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at Bank	4	42,830	43,905
Cash in Hand		21	140
Debtors & Prepayments	5	225	405
CREDITORS			
Payment Due	6	150	235
PROVISIONS			
New Idols (Protima)		4,485	4,485
NET ASSETS		38,441	39,730
Members' Fund	7	38,441	39,730
MEMBERS' FUND		38,441	39,730

BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 01 APRIL 2021 TO 31 MARCH 2022

1	Member's Subscription	2021-2022	2020-2021
		£	£
	Received during the period	1,089	907
	Total	1,089	907
2	BCS Activities	2021-2022	2020-2021
		£	£
	Income		
	Summer Fiesta	819	
	Sharad Utsav - Autumn Festival	19,734	2,957
	Tollywood Fundraisers		1,291
	Saraswati Puja	489	136
	Vasanta Utsav	251	
	Total Income	21,293	4,384
	Expenses	£	£
	Summer Fiesta	1,315	
	Sharad Utsav - Autumn Festival	17,566	372
	Tollywood Fundraisers		1,966
	Saraswati Puja	957	40
	Vasanta Utsav	627	
	Total Expense	20,465	2,378

3	Others	2021-2022	2020-2021
	Income	£	£
	Miscellaneous		12
	HMRC Gift Aid		5,679
	Amazon Smile Cashback	14	
	Total Income	14	5,691
	Expense	£	£
	Miscellaneous		598
	Storage Unit	445	749
	Insurance	1,184	
	Bank Fees	16	
	Digital Resources (Website/Zoom)	685	
	Total Expense	2,330	1,347
4	Cash at Bank	2021-2022	2020-2021
		£	£
	HSBC Plc	42,830	43,905
	Total	42,830	43,905
5	Debtors & Prepayments	2021-2022	2020-2021
		£	£
	Other Debtors	100	200
	Pre-payments	125	205
	Total	225	405

6 Creditors: Due within 1 Year	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£	£
ICA - Hall Hire		155
Other Creditors	150	80
Total	150	235
7 Members' Fund	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£	£
Opening Balance	35,245	28,573
Net Incoming Resources		6,672
Net Outgoing Resources	1,289	
Closing Balance	33,956	35,245
<i>Shown as:</i>		
Restricted Fund (New Idol/Protima)	4,485	4,485
Unrestricted Fund	33,956	35,245
Total	38,441	39,730
8 Accounting Policies		
<p>The following accounting policies are used consistently with items that are considered material in relation to the accounts:</p> <p>(a) <i>Basis of accounting:</i> The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention</p> <p>(b) <i>Income & Expenses:</i> The income and expenses are stated using the "accruals" concept</p>		

Annual Report and Financial Statement Signed By:

Abhijit Chakrabarti

Abhijit Chakrabarti
Chairperson

Dated: 20th May 2022

Sanjoy Paul

Sanjoy Paul
Joint Treasurer

Arijitkamal Manna

Arijitkamal Manna
Joint Treasurer

Aniruddha Bandyopadhyay

Aniruddha Bandyopadhyay
General Secretary

BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING

England & Wales - Charity number 1161671

Accounts



BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING

Charity Registration No 1161671

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021

The Board of Trustees of the Bengali Cultural Society, Reading ('BCS') presents the following report for the year 2020/21 to the members.

Activities:

The principal aim of BCS is to provide activities and programmes appropriate for the community, to raise awareness among the public by giving them the opportunity to participate and appreciate the nature of Indian and Bengali culture. With this objective in mind, we organised the following events in the year:

- Poila Boishak
- Children Talent Show
- Independence Day celebration
- Mahalaya celebration
- 8th Reading Autumn Festival/Durga Puja
- Pujor Jalsa - Bijoya celebration
- Mishti-Mukh – Diwali celebration
- Saraswati Puja

The impact of COVID-19 pandemic was significant and widespread for all usual activities of BCS. We had to adapt to doing things differently and quickly created online activities and support that was a great effort and well-received by our member families. The move to a completely virtual mode of operation opened new possibilities and expanded BCS's audience and reach beyond Reading and UK. We introduced the extensive use of digital and social media platforms to plan, organise and deliver the charitable/cultural programmes all throughout the year. Thus, the list of celebrations/festivities listed above were managed and executed by our volunteer members and well-wishers, following the necessary government guidelines of social distancing and lockdown scenario.

The 8th edition of the Annual Autumn Festival was arranged through digital (e-celebrations) initiatives which culminated on the last day of Bijoya Dashami by showcasing an incredibly unique and one of its kind Durga Puja film productions namely Pujor Jalsa. BCS took the initiative and was the trailblazer organisation in the UK for this event. BCS also fulfilled its commitment with three other partnering (UK based) organisation in hosting this digital show across various locations in the UK. The success of Pujor Jalsa was carried further into yet another cultural presentation on Diwali in which BCS hosted an event called Mishti-Mukh. This show gave a unique opportunity for BCS members to interact with two very well acclaimed artists Sourendro & Soumyajit and raise funds in support for the musicians and technicians who were severely affected due to the pandemic. In addition, we were also able to conduct two workshops which were very well received by children of various age groups. The Art workshop conducted by an acclaimed artist from India recognized young talents and motivated them to continue in their journey of being an art exponent. Likewise, there was a Music workshop conducted by a highly acclaimed vocalist from the UK which enhanced the learning experience of children in the field of music.

We are extremely pleased and thankful to all our volunteers who had collaborated against all odds and successfully presented so many enthralling cultural programmes using digital means for all our members free of cost. A high degree of participation by the members and others in the community has always been a feature of all our endeavours and undertakings.

Charitable Donations:

The Trust has a policy of actively identifying and donating appropriate financial aid to charities of worthwhile causes. This year we donated **£500 to Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Kolkata towards the super cyclone Amphan Relief work** in India. Our commitment to be socially responsible at such a tragic time of natural calamity is true to the ethos of our charitable endeavours.

Milestones Achieved:

- BCS was able to represent itself in a very distinctive webinar hosted by Zakir Hussain Delhi College (University of Delhi). This webinar was a forum to share ideas with other literary exponents discussing about "Prabasi Jibon o Sanskriti".

Independent Examiners of the Accounts:

According to the regulations of the Charity Commission, where a charity's annual income is in excess of £25,000 the Trustees must arrange for an Independent Person or Accountancy Firm to carry out an independent examination of its accounts. As the gross income of BCS for 2020/21 was below this threshold, the Trustees decided that they are not required to arrange independent examination of BCS accounts for 2020/21. Trustees are, however, satisfied that the Report of Trustees and Annual Accounts of BCS being presented herewith give a true and fair view of affairs of BCS.

Financial Review:

BCS Trustees manage the finances in a way that enables the charity to carry out its charitable purposes most effectively as set out in the objective's clause of the constitution. Our principal funding sources are individual donations, commercial sponsorships at events, ticket sales and membership fees. There was no formal fund raising in the year.

It has been a uniquely challenging year but thanks to our financial prudence and strong delivery of online events we have ensured that there was no depletion to our cash reserves from the previous year. Despite several fund generating avenues drying up during the pandemic, we are pleased that we had been able to provide financial help for deserving causes.

After allowing for a restricted reserve of £4485 for new Protima, the total accumulated income, from all sources, available for BCS future activities on 31st March 2020 stood at £39,730. This represents a net increase of £6,672 or 20% during the reporting year compared to the previous year's figure of £33,058.

Presently the Board has not identified the need to earmark any of the surplus funds for investment or other purposes, although the matter would be kept under review."

The Board considered the risks BCS faces and identified the main risk for next year as the potential impact to fundraising income in the prevailing environment of Government-imposed restrictions on public gathering and movement of people. The Board continues to review practical ways of funding and delivering events.

Gift Aid:

During the year BCS received a Gift Aid contribution of £5679 from HMRC, most of which relate to donations made to BCS in the previous financial year.

Membership:

Several new members have joined the Society during the year as well as some previous members moving away from Reading leaving our **membership strength at 132**.

Trustees:

Consequent to the registration of BCS as a Charity, the management and administration of its affairs rest with the Board of Trustees. At the AGM held on 25th July 2021, the following were elected to the Board of Trustees and the Charity Commission had been notified accordingly. They were –

Abhijit Chakrabarti (Chairperson), Arghya Dey (Treasurer), Aniruddha Bandyopadhyay, Arindam Basu, Chandan Bhowmik, Ratna Ghosh, Jayita Guin, Soma Mandal, Sourav Dutta (General Secretary).

In accordance with the provisions of the constitution, the current Trustees will retire at the end of the AGM to be held on or before the maximum frame of 15 months from the last AGM conducted on 25th July 2020 via Zoom meeting. The retiring Trustees are eligible to seek re-election.

The Board of Trustees received resignations from Arghya Dey (Treasurer) and Arindam Basu (Trustee) in November 2020 and subsequently accepted these resignations at its meeting on 03 January 2021. At the same meeting, the Board of Trustees appointed Sanjay Paul as a Trustee & Treasurer and Himanshu Dey as a Trustee to fill the vacancies arising from the above resignations and the appointments would be valid till the 2021 AGM. Aniruddha Bandyopadhyay was appointed as the Joint Treasurer to support the treasury functions.

Impact of the pandemic on AGM 2021:

Due to the current governmental restrictions on public gatherings the Trustees have not yet decided whether to hold 2021 AGM physically or virtually. All available options will be considered nearer the time and members will be kept informed of further developments in this regard and an appropriate Notice of Meeting will be given to members for the 2021 AGM in due time.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their help and co-operation and look forward to their support in the future.

Abhijit Chakrabarti – Chairperson
Sourav Dutta – General Secretary
Sanjoy Paul, Aniruddha Bandyopadhyay – Treasurers

Date: 24th July 2021

BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR
01 APRIL 2020 TO 31 MARCH 2021

INCOMING RESOURCES	<i>note</i>	2021	2020
		£	£
Members' subscription	1	907	1,009
BCS Activities	2	4,384	34,892
Interest Received		12	33
Gift Aid	3	5,679	13
Others	3	12	96
		<u>10,993</u>	<u>36,043</u>
 RESOURCES EXPENDED			
BCS Activities	2	2,378	25,279
ICA Subscription		50	50
Charitable Donations		547	400
Others	3	1,347	1,796
		<u>4,322</u>	<u>27,525</u>
 NET INCOMING RESOURCES for the year		 6,672	 8,518
Brought forward balance at 01 April		33,058	24,540
 Carry forward balance at 31 March		 <u><u>39,730</u></u>	 <u><u>33,058</u></u>

BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	<i>note</i>	2021 £	2020 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at Bank	4	43,905	37,085
Cash in Hand		140	168
Debtors & Prepayments	5	405	596
CREDITORS			
Payments Due	6	-235	-306
PROVISIONS			
New Protima		-4,485	-4,485
NET ASSETS			
		<u>39,730</u>	<u>33,058</u>
Members' Fund	7	39,730	33,058
MEMBERS' FUND			
		<u>39,730</u>	<u>33,058</u>

BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 01 APRIL 2020 TO 31 MARCH 2021

1. Members' subscription	2021	2020
	£	£
Received during the period	907	1,009
Total	907	1,009
2. BCS Activities	2021	2020
Income	£	£
Baisakhi Utsav		991
Mahalaya		1,209
Sharad Utsav - Autumn Festival	2,957	31,728
Bijoya Sammilani		125
Tollywood Fundraisers	1,291	
Saraswati Puja	136	840
Total Income	4,384	34,892
Expense	£	£
Baisakhi Utsav		928
Reading Children's Festival		15
Members' Dinner		401
Mahalaya		1,193
Sharad Utsav - Autumn Festival	372	21,405
Bijoya Sammilani	0	166
Tollywood Fundraisers	1,966	
Saraswati Puja	40	1,171
Total Expense	2,378	25,279
3. Others	2021	2020
Income	£	£
Miscellaneous	12	96
HMRC Gift Aid	5,679	13
Total Income	5,691	109
Expense	£	£
Miscellaneous	598	413
Accountant's Fees		200
Storage Unit	749	749
Norris Road Hire (Sundays)		434
Total Expense	1,347	1,796

BENGALI CULTURAL SOCIETY, READING

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 01 APRIL 2020 TO 31 MARCH 2021

4.	Cash at Bank	2021	2020
		£	£
	HSBC	43,905	44,959
	Lloyds	0	645
	Total	<u>43,905</u>	<u>45,603</u>
5.	Debtors & Prepayments	2021	2020
		£	£
	Other Debtors	200	200
	Pre-payments	205	396
	Total	<u>405</u>	<u>596</u>
6.	Creditors: due within one year	2021	2020
		£	£
	ICA - Hall Hire	155	105
	Accountant's Fees		200
	Other Creditors	80	1
	Total	<u>235</u>	<u>306</u>
7.	Members' Fund	2021	2020
		£	£
	Opening Balance	28,573	18,540
	Net Incoming Resources	6,672	8,518
	Transfer to Restricted Funds (Durga Protima)		1,515
	Closing Balance	<u>35,245</u>	<u>28,573</u>
	<i>Shown as:</i>		
	Restricted Fund (Durga Protima)	4,485	4,485
	Unrestricted Fund	35,245	28,573
	Total	<u>39,730</u>	<u>33,058</u>

8. Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies are used consistently with items that are considered material in relation to the accounts:

- (a) *Basis of accounting*: The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention

- (b) *Income & Expenses*: The income and expenses are stated using the "accruals" concept