



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	May	2023		30	April	2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Bulgarian British Foundation "St George"

Other names charity is known by

BBF "St George"

Registered charity number (if any)

1164441

Charity's principal address

16 King William Drive

Cheltenham

Gloucestershire

Postcode GL53 7RP

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Dr Malinka Vrabctheva			
2	Mr Ivan Kovachev			
3	Mrs Iliana Akinmutande			
4	Mr Stanimir Adanev			
5				
6				
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14				
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16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser

Name

Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Foundation

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Appointed by the board of trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;

the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;

relationship with any related parties;

trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The charity's organizational structure consists of main office with governing body the board of trustees and local branches governed by managing committee.

The structure of the main charity is as follows:

Board of trustees (by constitution up to 12), currently 5:

1. Chair
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Members

All trustees were nominated and formally appointed by the existing trustees.

The Structure of the Managing committee is as follows:

1. Chair of the managing committee – always one of the trustees
2. Members – associate members to which the board of trustees delegate the role of member of the managing committee and delegate rights to act on behalf of the charity in on specifically specified matters.

To govern the local branch, we have developed and accepted the following policies:

1. Associate membership Terms and conditions
2. Proposed Agreement for opening a local branch of the Bulgarian British Foundation "St George"

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The objects of the CIO are:

- For the public benefit to advance the education of children in the subjects of the Bulgarian language and the history, geography and culture of Bulgaria.
- To promote social inclusion for the public benefit of people in the Bulgarian community who are socially excluded on the grounds of their ethnic origin.
- To promote Bulgarian culture and heritage by providing opportunities for people to participate in traditional Bulgarian folk-dance classes
- 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.

1. For the public benefit to advance the education of children in the subjects of the Bulgarian language and the history, geography and culture of Bulgaria

- **Bulgarian schools**

The children in the community are a top priority for our Foundation. It is our responsibility as parents to keep the Bulgarian language and traditions alive and to hand them over to future generations.

Currently the BBF" St George" maintains three Sunday schools (Cheltenham, Bristol and Newcastle) where more than 120 children learn about Bulgarian language, history and tradition.

For the past year we have seen an increase in the number of children enrolling at the schools, particularly the Cheltenham based Bulgarian school. This school alone has now enrolled 105 children.

The Bulgarian schools were founded with lots of love and dedication more than 7 years ago. Under the guidance of the BBF" St George" the schools achieved excellent results and were recognised as a member of the Association of the Bulgarian schools abroad.

Under the guidance of BBF" St George", the teaching teams in Bristol, Cheltenham, and Newcastle successfully, established contact and exchanged information with similar schools in Great Britain, Europe and around the world.

The schools work with children divided in the following groups:

Preparatory group (children under the age of 5 and such whose first language is not Bulgarian)

Children from Year 1 to Year 4

The children are grouped according to their knowledge and abilities, not according to age.

The children study Bulgarian language and Literature, as well as History and Geography of Bulgaria; Bulgarian folklore traditions). Specialised books for children living abroad are used in the education process from the approved curriculum of the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science.

The annual fee is minimal, and the collected funds cover the rent of the premises, as well as the teachers' payments. At the end of the first academic year, thanks to the activity of the Foundation, through fundraising activities funds were raised to support the development of the school, which allowed us to reduce the annual tuition by £60 per child and to offer a discount for a second child at the same school. A third child from the same family receives free education.

The textbooks, as well as all other materials and equipment are free for the children.

- **Bulgarian School Mobile library**

The mobile library was founded and is maintained by Mrs Ivelina Spasova- Dimitrova, a parent at Bulgarian school 'Hristo Botev'. The library boasts a collection of Bulgarian books for children and adults, donated by Bulgarians living in Great Britain and Bulgaria. At present the library is open only during the school working hours but we hope to have our own building in the future.

2.To promote social inclusion for the public benefit of people in the Bulgarian community who are socially excluded on the grounds of their ethnic origin.

Building life in a new culture brings about a variety of challenges for immigrants. Like many other recent immigrants, Bulgarians face language and cultural adjustment challenges and struggle with the dilemma of total assimilation and preservation of their own cultural heritage which is too often the root cause of tensions between family and or other community members. Bulgarian children and particularly those who are second generation Immigrants face additional challenges due to the absence of or presence of fragmented memories about Bulgarian culture. Identity confusion and a disconnection from Bulgarian cultural heritage present risks for the development of these children. We address these challenges by creating opportunities for generations of Bulgarian immigrants and their families to socialize and reconnect with their cultural heritage. The gatherings also help younger members of the Bulgarian community to fill the gaps that may already exist in their memories of Bulgarian language, culture and tradition. The encouragement of stable identity facilitates the integration in the UK society and culture. We organise and govern a Sunday school where young children learn Bulgarian language and history. We have a mobile library with collection of books in Bulgarian language to help them learn about Bulgarian literature.

3.To promote Bulgarian culture and heritage by providing opportunities for people to participate in traditional Bulgarian folk-dance classes

We continue to run traditional Bulgarian folk-dance classes. These classes are now linked to the Sunday Bulgarian school and run by the parents of the school children. These classes help building up a community spirit and contribute to the development of the Bulgarian Sunday schools.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Contribution made by volunteers

A major driving force of the BBF” St George” are our volunteers who give up their free time for popularising Bulgarian heritage culture and keeping the Bulgarian spirit alive.

They organise theme events around every holiday – Christmas, Easter, Baba Marta, Bulgarian Liberation Day.

All members give the best they can.
We have 25 regular volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

We have created opportunities for generations of Bulgarian immigrants and their families:

1. We continue the tradition of organising the community family fun day "BG Picnic". It has become a tradition to organize this event during the month of June. We have organized the 8th BG Picnic during June 2023 - a social gathering for generations of Bulgarian immigrants and their families to socialize and reconnect with their cultural heritage. This also helped younger members of the Bulgarian community to fill the gaps that may already exist in their memories of Bulgarian language, culture and tradition. The encouragement of stable identity facilitates the integration in the UK society and culture. We have raised vital funds through fundraising activities such as traditional Bulgarian food, souvenirs and voluntary donations.
2. We continue to organise and govern Sunday language and tradition schools where young children learn Bulgarian language and history.
3. We continue to have a mobile library with collection of books in Bulgarian language to help them learn about Bulgarian literature.
4. We continue to run Bulgarian Folk dance classes for children and adults alongside our Bulgarian Sunday schools. These classes are run by the parents of school children and play an important role in the community life.

Most of all we have achieved the respect and support from our Bulgarian community which can be seen from some of the comments about our work from our supporters:

"The Bulgarian-British Foundation is a wonderful charity that works very hard to keep the Bulgarian spirit alive in the young community as well as bringing together and supporting the Bulgarian community as a whole" Iva Vrabtcheva

"BBF creates wonderful opportunities for the community to socialise and learn with special care for children and their parents and strives to deliver high standards to all activities that it organises." Raia Androvska

"They are very kind, nice and reliable foundation." Daniela Petkova

"So proud of St George foundation! Well done!" Zornica Miladinova

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s) Dr Malinka

Vrabtcheva

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair

Date

16/02/2025



Charity Name	No (if any)
Bulgarian-British Foundation "St George"	1164441

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	5/1/2023		4/30/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Event Receipts	11,041	-	-	11,041	8,876
Donations	2,580	-	-	2,580	2,054
School Fees	31,878	-	-	31,878	34,533
Project Income	-	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	-
Other Income	50,977	-	-	50,977	47,751
Prior year income adjustment	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	96,476	-	-	96,476	93,214
A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	96,476.00	-	-	96,476	93,214
A3 Payments					
Event Expenses	5,568	-	-	5,568	5,684
Donations	-	-	-	-	-
School Expenses	73,618	-	-	73,618	63,328
Premises Costs	18,182	-	-	18,182	13,953
Equipment Expenses	-	-	-	-	569
Travel Expenses	-	-	-	-	281
Governance Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	5,141	-	-	5,141	1,864
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	102,509	-	-	102,509	85,679
A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	102,509	-	-	102,509	85,679
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 6,033	-	-	- 6,033	7,535
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	48,900	-	-	48,900	-
Cash funds this year end	42,867	-	-	42,867	7,535

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Barclays Bank	42,867	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	42,867	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
			-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/ members of	Bulgarian-British Foundation "St George"		
On accounts for the year ended	30 th April 2024	Charity no (if any)	1164441
Set out on pages	1 to 2 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to • examine the accounts (under section 43 of the Act), • to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the 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 Commissioners. 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.		
Independent examiner's statement	In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) 1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that: • proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the Act); and • accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or 2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. <i>* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.</i>		
Signed:		Date:	27/02/2025
Name:	Anthony Smith		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	AFA		
Address:	2 Tylea Close, The Reddings		
	Cheltenham		
	Gloucestershire		
	GL51 6RB		

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.