



Report of the trustees for the period ending 28 February 2024

The trustees of Keele World Affairs present their annual report and accounts for the period ended 28 February 2024 and confirm they comply with the requirements of the Charity Commission and the constitution of Keele World Affairs.

1 OUR AIMS

The charitable aims of Keele World Affairs are

- (1) To advance education for the public benefit through lectures and other forms of learning in fields of international politics, economics, and global issues;
- (2) To create an environment that encourages lifelong learning through the programmes it organises;
- (3) To share the knowledge gained during its programme with the wider community.

Since the foundation of Keele World Affairs in 1980 as an informal community association, its primary focus has been on international politics, economics, and global issues. This remained the aim of the trustees following the registration of Keele World Affairs as a charity and has continued in the latest year.

It is increasingly recognised that a unique feature of Keele World Affairs, appreciated by speakers and members alike, is the lengthy Q & A session in which over 300 members can raise thoughtful questions about the speaker's analysis and opinions. A two way process unlike a traditional lecture. For this reason, starting next season, we will replace all references to lectures and describe Keele World Affairs as the UK's leading Forum for International Politics and Global Issues.

2 OUR ETHOS AND OUR ACCESS POLICY

Keele World Affairs serves the region and society more widely (by for example bringing public figures into contact with our members) and as a charitable trust it seeks to benefit the public through the pursuit of the above aims. Our policy is for subscriptions to be affordable by any member of the community whatever their economic status.

In return for the voluntary effort that is made to sustain the efforts of the charity, we expect subscribing members to follow our guiding principles of lifelong learning by

regular attendance during the season, engagement in the questioning of speakers on the topics covered, and support that leads to a good learning environment.

Applications to join Keele World Affairs are considered in the light of these principles and we are committed to maintaining a membership that is free from any form of discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability. We believe that our members benefit from learning within a diverse community and that a great deal of learning occurs through social interaction, conversation and shared experiences during our meetings.

3 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity trustees are responsible for the policies and overall management of Keele World Affairs activities; they meet during the season and the summer recess as required. With the longer term in mind, teams of member volunteers have been formed to help implement policies and manage activities. These include

Speaker Programme – to maintain relationships with and invite visiting speakers and host them on the day of their visit

Finance & Compliance – led by a trustee who takes responsibility for our accounts, insurances, data security, privacy policy, compliance with the requirements of the Charity Commission, and copyright/legal matters.

Systems – where volunteers with IT skills manage a range of systems that support our activities

Health & Safety – where a team monitors health and safety risks , and arrangements are also in place with St John Ambulance, arranged by the lead trustee

Front of House – with a team that manages attendance and order to ensure the effective running of these large occasions.

Membership – to manage leavers and joiners and subscription changes

Communications – to improve awareness of Keele World Affairs in the region and more widely via print and social media

All trustees and team members give of their time freely and no remuneration or expenses (other than out of pocket expenses) were paid in the accounting period.

4 OUR FINANCES

Our financial accounts are shown at the bottom of this report.

5 REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

5.1 Programme of meetings

During the period, 20 meetings took place. Many members who had joined in the years before the arrival of Covid restrictions in March 2020 had supported World Affairs Digital (Oct 2020 – Mar 2022) but, for a variety of reasons had been unable to attend resume their support in the Westminster. October 2022 had seen an influx of new members and this was repeated in the period covered by this report.

Membership exceeded 500 and average attendances approached 300 (in the 397-seat theatre). Trustees are encouraged to report this as evidence of the value of Keele World Affairs to the community and of continuing interest in international affairs.

5.2 Speakers

The following speakers addressed Keele World Affairs meeting during the period covered by the report. They include academics, historians, scientists, diplomats, journalists, and politicians.

Adam Boulton

Former Political Editor Sky News, Sunday Times Political Columnist
Governments and the Media

Professor Guy Standing

Professorial Research Associate, SOAS University of London
The Blue Commons: Combating Rentier Capitalism in the Sea

Professor Michael Clarke

former Director-General, RUSI (Royal United Services Institute)
The New Global Politics of the 2020's

Sir Peter Westmacott GCMG LVO

Former British Ambassador to USA, France, and Turkey, Senior RUSI Adviser
The US and Britain in the 21st Century: Is the Relationship Still 'Special' ?

Professor Lord Martin Rees OM FRS

Astronomer Royal and former President Royal Society
If Science Is to Save Us

Baroness Brenda Hale DBE FBA

former President, Supreme Court of the United Kingdom
Why is Britain One of Only Four Western Democracies with No Written Constitution?

Yasmine Ahmed

Director, United Kingdom, Human Rights Watch
Power and Human Rights in a Changing World

Rt. Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind KCMG KC

former Foreign Secretary and Defence Secretary
The UK at Home and in the World: The Future is Not What it Used to Be

Gaia Vince

Hon Snr Research Fellow, UCL Geography
Nomad Century

The Honourable Ralph Goodale PC

High Commissioner for Canada in the UK
Canada in a Turbulent World

Stephen Kinnock MP

Shadow Minister for Immigration, House of Commons
Where Next on Immigration?

Professor Bobby Duffy

Director of the Policy Institute, King's College London
Generations - Does When You're Born Shape Who You Are?

Professor Klaus Dodds

Executive Dean, School of Life Sciences & Environment, Royal Holloway University of London
What Future for the Polar Regions? Geopolitics, Resources and Climate

Professor Jonathan Hopkin

Professor of Comparative Politics, London School of Economics and Political Science
The Art of Survival: Southern Europe's Messy Politics and Resilient Society

Dr Rory Horner

Global Development Institute, University of Manchester
The Future of Pharmaceuticals in a Fractured World

Professor Tim Lenton

Director, Global Systems Institute, University of Exeter
Tipping Points of Our Living Planet

Professor David Runciman FBA

Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS), University of Cambridge
Is Authoritarianism Winning?

Dr Jon Herbert

Senior Lecturer in Politics, Keele University
Race For the White House 2024: Presidents Biden, Trump & Their Parties

David Pilling

Africa Editor, Financial Times
How Africa Will Reshape Our World

Dr Elisabeth Kendall

Mistress, Girton College, University of Cambridge
Yemen and al-Qaeda: How to Rebuild a Vulnerable Country

5.3 Attendances

Attendances in the Westminster during the period was 5,493, an increase of 20% on the previous period despite the necessity to cancel one meeting in March 2023 for safety reasons due to extreme weather in the area.

5.4 Communications

We communicate frequently with all World Affairs members by email and this encourages commitment to the programme that is the basis of their educational experience. There is a preview of each meeting and guidance on how to benefit most from attendance at our meetings.

5.5 Our Systems

Our current website is well-maintained and there is a long-term intention to move to another platform that will be easier to update. Our Speaker Database, a bespoke Microsoft Access solution developed by a member, now works well on a multi-user platform with further development planned.

For cloud storage we continue with our secure Tresorit platform under advantageous terms as a charity that our late Systems Trustee had agreed with Tresorit.

5.6 Our Website

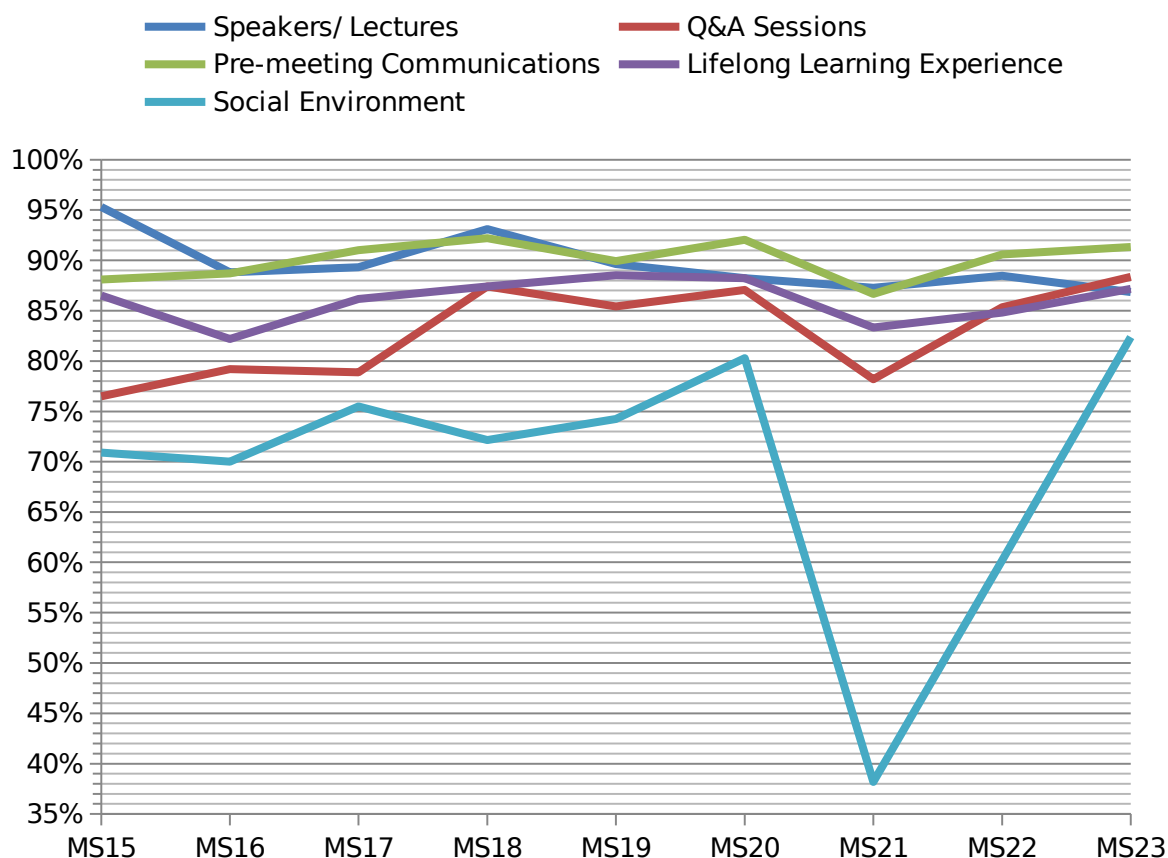
Information about Keele World Affairs and its aims is available to subscribing members and to the public at [www. http://kwaku.org.uk/](http://kwaku.org.uk/). To make our educational activities widely available, we maintain an archive of our meetings at <http://kwaku.org.uk/Video.html> where the meetings are published whenever we have the consent of the speaker.

5.7 Member Feedback and Opinion

Keele World Affairs is run by the trustees on the Foundation Model in which they take the decisions, so regular surveys of subscribing members are important to provide feedback about their educational experience. Following our return to face-to-face meetings, we again see high levels of satisfaction in the survey conducted for the season to spring 2024 shown as MS24 in the chart below.

For the first time, members are able to rate the range of topics as distinct from the speakers they encountered. This dimension will be reported in future years.

Extremely & Very Satisfied % 2014-2023



5.8 Engagement with our educational programme

During the period covered by this report, books by the following speakers were available at book signings at our meetings. We invite local booksellers to organise them and we seek no profit:

Professor Guy Standing

Baroness Brenda Hale DBE FBA

Gaia Vince

Professor Bobby Duffy

Professor Klaus Dodds

Professor David Runciman FBA

6 ADVISORY PANEL.

The Honorary President Lord Peter Hennessy informed us with regret in November 2023 that, due to continuing ill-health he was obliged to stand down. We have been truly fortunate to have benefitted from his support. Many notable speakers have appeared at Keele World Affairs in recent years on account of his association with us.

Peter Hennessy has been succeeded by another distinguished figure, Prof Margaret MacMillan OM CH. Margaret who was appointed to the Order of Merit in 2022 is already an Advisory Panel member, she contributes suggestions informally and helps the Chair to introduce thinkers with new ideas to the Keele World Affairs platform. We look forward to her support in the future.

7 RELATIONSHIP WITH KEELE UNIVERSITY

Our relationship with the university remains strong and we are grateful for access to its excellent facilities. The Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Humanities & Social Sciences are ex-officio members of Keele World Affairs. The Vice-Chancellor is invited annually to address our members about developments at Keele University and did so in February 2024.

8 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Outstanding speakers and in-depth discussion of a wide range of international issues enabled us to fulfil our aims once more.

Signed:

Date: 18 Dec 2024

Bill Boynton, Chair

Website www.kwaku.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1164457

Keele World Affairs cio

Financial Statement 2024

The Trustees report the Financial Statements of Keele World Affairs ("the CIO"), for the financial year ended 29 February 2024.

The accounts have been prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis and, verified by our Independent Examiner, as permitted by its constitution and by regulation.

The financial situation is considered satisfactory.

The CIO has continued and developed its educational activities which began as an informal community association: a full report of activities and Trustees is contained in the accompanying Annual Report.

The notes following the accounts form part of this report.

Keele World Affairs			
Receipts and Payments			
For the period from 1 March 2023 to 29 February 2024			
	2024		2023
	£		£
Receipts			
Course enrollment fees	15,022		14,567
Donations	43		211
Other Receipts	0		79
Total receipts	15,065		14,857
Payments			
Speaker expenses	5,892		5,372
Other Meeting Expenses	1,745		295
Internet & Audio Visual services	3,436		4,655
Other IT costs	2,105		1,731
KWA Digital streaming	0		221
Admin costs	1,710		1,561
Insurance, Legal, Comms	362		342
Total payments	15,250		14,177
Net surplus (deficit)	(185)		680

Keele World Affairs cio

Financial Statement 2024

Keele World Affairs		
Balance Sheet		
As at 29 February 2024		
	2024 £	2023 £
Assets		
Bank Accounts	23,295	23,480
Computers & Equipment	3,000	3,000
Accounts Receivable	0	0
Total Assets	<u>26,295</u>	<u>26,481</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	0	0
Other	0	0
Total Liabilities	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>26,295</u>	<u>26,481</u>
Reserves		
Brought forward	26,481	25,801
Add (deficit)		
Receipts & Payments Account	(185)	680
Total Accumulated Reserve:	<u>26,295</u>	<u>26,481</u>

Notes to the Accounts

1. This statement has been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis, for the financial year to 29 February 2024;
2. Equipment: the Trustees' valuation (mainly computer systems etc.) is £3,000 after disposals and replacements;
3. There were no accounts payable at year end.
4. There were no accounts receivable at year end.

Signed as a true record

J W BOYNTON, Chairman

18 December 2024

D MUIR, Trustee

18 December 2024

Internal examiner's report to the trustees of Keele World Affairs Charitable Incorporated Organisation ("CIO")

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 29 February 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO, 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 CIO's 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 Act.

Internal 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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. 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.

Signed: 

Name: Richard M Arkle

Professional qualification: Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address: 1 The Mynd, Norton in Hales, Shropshire, TF9 4FF

Date:  December 2024