PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

England & Wales · Charity number 1166497

Details

Other names	GHANA ORPHANAGE FOUNDATION
Status	Registered
Legal form	Trust
Registered	2016-04-13
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	1 Chapman Close Brightlingsea Colchester CO7 0FS
Phone	07740016229
Email	jemmawilliams89@gmail.com
Website	www.porridgeandpens.org

Activities

Objects: “To relieve poverty of orphaned, abandoned and vulnerable children, young adults and families, by provision of such grants and donations as shall be thought fit to orphanages, schools, individuals and families in Kumasi, Ghana, to improve their conditions of life”.

Activities: Porridge and Pens works with some of the most disadvantaged children and young adults in Ghana. We do this by providing access to free education, medicine, safe shelter and school meals so young people can create their own bright and sustainable futures, free from poverty.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Accommodation/housing
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

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Geography

- Ghana
- Essex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£258,339	£282,590	-	-
2023-12-31	£270,977	£316,879	-	-
2022-12-31	£258,647	£262,877	-	-
2021-12-31	£132,642	£133,667	-	-
2020-12-31	£135,499	£69,431	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr PHILIP GRAYDON TIBBS		2021-05-01
Edmund David Smith		2021-05-01
Elizabeth Merrell		2022-12-01
Elizabeth Merrell		2022-11-13
Gregg Weaver		2018-08-09
Jayne Meek JM		2018-08-09

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PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

England & Wales - Charity number 1166497

Accounts

Trustee Report - Porridge and Pens

If there's one emotion that continues to define Porridge and Pens' journey, it's hope. Despite financial challenges over the past few years felt across the small charity sector, every day has brought new opportunities and moments of transformation for the 600 children and young people whose lives we change in Kumasi, Ghana.

The fundraising climate remains tough, with competition for limited resources growing. Previously, larger international charities could access UK government aid funding. Still, with that funding now withdrawn, they are turning to smaller trusts and foundations—the same sources that small charities like Porridge and Pens rely on so crucially. This shift has made securing grants even more challenging, as we simultaneously navigate economic uncertainty and a volatile exchange rate in Ghana.

Porridge and Pens has worked hard the past few years to try new fundraising ideas, recruit more volunteers than ever, and stretch every pound donated further.

We're more determined than ever, working tirelessly to ensure the children in our care at Brightlingsea Academy and our Girl Power Refuge have a place to go to school, two meals a day, and a safe place to sleep, long into the future

In 2024, 97% of Porridge and Pens' total expenditure was spent directly on charitable activities in Ghana, ensuring that the vast majority of funds are used to deliver our programmes and benefit the communities we support. Only 3% was spent on essential governance and administrative costs, reflecting our commitment to efficiency and accountability.

A Journey of Hope from our Founder: That started over 13 years ago

Thirteen years ago, I stepped off a plane in Kumasi, Ghana, as a volunteer teacher. I was 18, freshly out of college, full of excitement—and utterly unprepared for the reality I was about to face.

My first trip to Ghana in 2009

Every day in the classroom, I saw girls desperate to stay in school, despite the crushing costs of textbooks, exam fees, uniforms, and even a simple bowl of rice at lunchtime. I struggled to comprehend why education wasn't free, why children had to choose between learning and survival. But nothing changed me more than meeting a girl called Mabel.

Mabel wasn't in school—she was trapped in child labour. An orphan, she had been working as a housemaid since she was eight, cleaning and cooking without pay for a wealthy elderly couple. She had never stepped into a classroom.

When I returned home to Essex, in the UK, I couldn't stop thinking about how I could help Mabel. With my family's support, we enrolled her in a private boarding school near Kumasi with a caring housemistress who supported her for five years during her education.

She finally had a place to learn, grow, and dream.

After thirteen years, Mabel has transformed her life. She is now a professional chef, has built a small family home, and runs a successful business. She has never needed my support again, but we remain the best friends, bound together through our experiences in Ghana.

When I met Mabel, Mabel changed everything and planted the seeds for Porridge and Pens.

Today, we have 600 children in our care—children who deserve the same opportunity Mabel had.

Our mission remains clear:

Porridge and Pens works in Kumasi with 600 children and their families.

Kumasi is a city of over four million people, with many challenges, including high unemployment, rising education costs, and a growing number of children living on the streets. With only 11% of Ghanaian youth accessing higher education and extreme inflation in Ghana, our work has never been more essential.

- **Safe Shelter:** Through our Girl Power Centre and Refuge, nearly 100 homeless girls and young women are kept safe from the streets of Kumasi.
- **A Place at School:** Brightlingsea Academy is Ghana's first corporal punishment-free and disability-welcoming school for children from multidimensional poverty.
- **Full Tummies:** Providing two nutritious meals daily ensures that hunger never stands in the way of learning or potential.

Brightlingsea Academy

Brightlingsea Academy is more than a school—it's a safe, inclusive space where every child can learn and thrive. Since 2013, it has grown from a small classroom of 30 students into a welcoming community of 500 children, free from abuse and open to all, including children with disabilities. Here's how we're making a difference.

Our Exceptional Teachers:

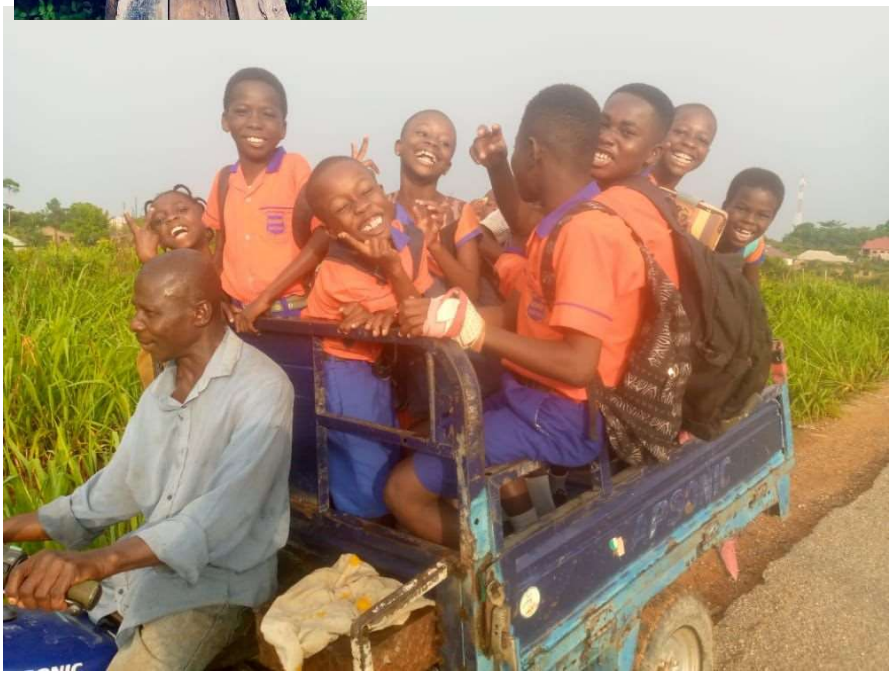
Brightlingsea Academy has grown steadily, providing a supportive environment where students can engage with their learning. Many of our students face extreme poverty, and some have no parents to care for them, relying on themselves after school. For them, education is more than just lessons—it's a source of stability and opportunity. Our dedicated teachers are vital in helping them succeed, offering guidance, encouragement, and a safe space to learn and grow.

With a team of 30 dedicated teachers, we're ensuring that all 500 children in the rural village of Assenua can continue their education despite their growing challenges. Our teachers do more than teach—they visit students' homes each week, check in on their families, and help remove obstacles that could keep them out of school.

Climate change has made Ghana's weather hotter by two degrees, and the rains heavier, causing riverbanks to flood during the rainy season. Many of our students don't know how to swim, yet they still try to cross the swollen rivers, desperate to get to class. That's why our teachers now walk students to and from school—and, when needed, carry them across the flooded riverbanks—to ensure they arrive safely and can continue their education without risking their lives.

Our teachers' first mission? **Keeping children in school, every single day.** Their second? Teaching.

When rivers are particularly overflowing, children try to come to school in whatever way they can, sometimes hitching rides with local tradespeople on their way to work.



“Just recently, a huge lorry pulled up outside the school and poured nearly 50 of our school students out. They had stood in front of the lorry on a busy road and asked the driver to take them to Brightlingsea Academy, because they could not cross the burst riverbank. That is a moment in time I will not forget.” Ben Antwi Boateng – Brightlingsea Academy, Ghana.

Ghana’s economic crisis has increased school costs by more than 50%, something we could never have planned for or expected, but teachers have remained the one constant. While wages haven’t kept pace with inflation, our teachers are still paid more reliably than their government-employed counterparts—a reflection of our commitment to them.

They are mentors, caregivers, advocates, and protectors. They walk children home, track housing situations, ensure meals are provided, and—most importantly—stand between our students and the circumstances threatening their futures.

Retaining Our Local Teachers: A Critical Need

Because of bursting of rivers and our remote location, our teachers must live close to the school. They are responsible for guiding children safely through rising waters in the early mornings, so they don't miss a day of learning or attempt to cross the fast-flowing water themselves. This responsibility makes recruiting from outside the community incredibly difficult because of our rural location.

Our teachers understand our students because they've lived their struggles firsthand:

- 70% of our teachers joined us without bank accounts or personal savings.
- 80% lack access to electricity or running water in their homes.

Many grew up experiencing the same educational barriers that our students face today, and they make great role models with their life experiences of multidimensional poverty, but they are determined to change that.

Teacher Training

At Porridge and Pens, we know that education can change lives.

One of our biggest challenges is ensuring children have access to qualified teachers. Finding trained educators is difficult in Ghana, especially in more remote areas like ours. This is especially true for us at Brightlingsea Academy because we need our teachers to live within the village. Often, they are waiting by the banks of the river by 5 am, ready to escort children across the river safely.

Rather than seeing this as a setback, we've embraced it as an opportunity. We focus on identifying passionate local people who genuinely want to teach and invest in their future.

This approach benefits everyone—students receive education from teachers who truly understand their experiences, and local people gain career opportunities that create lasting change. This is important for our community development, with over 80% of women unemployed.

Two free meals each day at Brightlingsea Academy:

At Brightlingsea Academy, school feeding isn't just about breakfast and lunch but survival. For many of our 500 students, the meals they receive at school are their only guaranteed food source. Hunger impacts learning, concentration, and overall well-

being, so we remain committed to providing breakfast and lunch to every child despite the immense financial pressures from Ghana's food inflation rate.

Over the past year, Ghana's food inflation has skyrocketed, forcing us to make difficult choices—portions have had to become smaller to keep meals available for all students. But we refuse to let school feeding be compromised. It is our priority, and we will continue fighting to ensure that every child receives nourishment at school. We are so thankful to our donors who have supported us and the school feeding at Brightlingsea Academy. As we move towards 2025, we hope to start a school garden that grows maze, plantain, and cassava. This will ensure that our school feeding program becomes much less dependent on volatile food costs.

Our school menu – 2024/2025

Monday

- Breakfast: Tom Brown or Corn Porridge with sugar & milk
- Lunch: Waakye (Rice and Beans)

Tuesday

- Breakfast: Bread with tea or a cocoa drink
- Lunch: Banku with groundnut soup

Wednesday

- Breakfast: Rice porridge (Rice Water) with sugar & milk
- Lunch: Jollof rice

Thursday

- Breakfast: Yam
- Lunch: Plain rice with tomato stew

Friday

- Breakfast: Koko (spicy millet porridge) with bread
- Lunch: Kenkey and pepper sauce

Investing in Brightlingsea Academy's Future: Expanding WASH and Classroom Space

Our school has led the way for years and has been a mentor school to other local government schools. We are the first free school for children with disabilities and a corporal punishment-free school in Kumasi. However, due to funding restrictions, our toilets and WASH facilities have not met the same high standards as the rest of our school.

Now, that has very nearly changed! It's been weighing heavily on our minds, since we first constructed our squat toilets in 2014, that they could be better. During this time, Porridge and Pens were forming, and decent WASH facilities were unaffordable for us. We are overjoyed at the transformation in 2024 and into 2025.

The new WASH facilities and outdoor teaching space are nearly complete. We have worked hard to ensure students have access to safe sanitation, clean water, and a dignified learning environment. Over 60% of our families lack access to basic WASH facilities at home, so we must provide opportunities to practise safe hygiene at Brightlingsea Academy.

Previously, our WASH facilities:

- Dirty, unhygienic squat toilets that were difficult to clean attracted flies.
- Large squat holes that posed risks for our youngest children.
- No handwashing facilities, leading to frequent illness outbreaks across the school.
- Inaccessible toilets for students with disabilities.
- Female students avoid the school toilets out of embarrassment, leading to discomfort and health issues such as urinary tract infections.

Out with the old and in with the new

Thanks to funding from valued donors, we can now provide safe, hygienic facilities that prevent disease and save students from the embarrassment of using our former squat toilets. This is especially true for the eldest cohort of girls at Brightlingsea Academy, who are of menstruation age and desperately need an upgrade from the squat toilets.

At the same time, we are working to expand our classrooms, ensuring students can stay with us through their Junior High education. With our new classroom space, we will:

- Use it as an open teaching space for up to 60 children.
- Support our school development plan, which will hopefully see opportunities for students to stay at Brightlingsea Academy till they are 14 years old.
- We have a growing waiting list of students in desperate need of a free school place, and the new classroom space allows us to offer additional spaces to those missing out on their education.

Our Girl Power Project:

Our Girl Power Project has been a transformative force in the lives of vulnerable girls and young women in Kumasi for over nine years. Our mission is to break the cycle of poverty and exploitation by providing a nurturing environment at our Girl Power Centre filled with opportunity, education, and vocational training.

Girl Power Centre: A Safe Haven for Ghana's Most Vulnerable Girls

At Porridge and Pens, we believe every girl deserves safety, education, and the opportunity to thrive.

Our award-winning Girl Power Project, recognised by the British Council in Ghana, works in the heart of Kumasi, providing shelter, education, and training to young women and girls who would otherwise remain trapped in the cycle of childhood labour and live on the streets of Kumasi.

Our Girl Power Centre is more than just a refuge—it is a home, a support system, and a pathway to a brighter future for girls aged five to twenty-seven, many of whom have faced financial distress, food insecurity, mental health challenges, and exposure to sexual violence. Most arrive as orphans or survivors of childhood labour, referred to us by orphanages, schools, and hospitals. We take each girl in, building her confidence before enrolling her into education and guiding her toward respected qualifications to secure her future.

Our Girl Power Refuge!

The Urgent Problem We Are Tackling

- Twenty-eight per cent of Ghanaian children are engaged in child labour, with twenty-one per cent working in hazardous conditions such as mines or factories.
- Twenty thousand young people live on the streets of Kumasi, without access to school. Only three per cent of females progress to higher education, keeping many women trapped in poverty.
- Ninety-two per cent of employed women in Ghana work in informal jobs, such as street selling, without bank accounts or savings.

The Girl Power Solution

Through our Girl Power Project, we have witnessed the transformative power of education, mentorship, and safe shelter. Our all-female team, who live alongside the

girls, act as mentors, guardians, and role models, ensuring each child receives the support she needs to thrive.

With our programme, girls receive:

- A safe place to live at the Girl Power Centre
- A formal or vocational education leading to an accredited qualification
- Daily mentorship and guidance
- Consistent meals, ensuring proper nutrition
- Weekend tuition to strengthen learning
- Counselling and trauma support, addressing past experiences
- Resources for learning
- Transportation on our Girl Power minibus, ensuring access to school
- Fun and relaxing weekend activities to help them heal and build friendships

Our impact is undeniable—one hundred per cent of graduates successfully enter higher education, vocational training, or work opportunities, ensuring they never return to life on the streets.

The Women Driving Change at the Girl Power Centre

Our Girl Power students require unwavering dedication, experience, and a deep understanding of the daily struggles girls in Ghana face. Claudia, our extraordinary Girl Power Centre Manager, is at the heart of this work.

Claudia's leadership is not just built on expertise—it comes from her experience as a girl growing up in Ghana, navigating the same complex challenges our students battle today. This perspective gives her an incredible ability to connect, support, and advocate for the young women in her care.

But she is not alone. The Girl Power Project is powered by some of Ghana's strongest, most inspirational women. These women refuse to accept 'no' when it comes to protecting a girl's right to education. They stand firm against the injustices that keep girls locked out of opportunities, often from traditional beliefs leading to gender inequality.

Together, they fight to ensure every girl has a safe space to learn, grow, and build a future free from childhood labour and poverty. They are more than educators and social workers; they are guardians of change, fierce advocates, and the role models young girls need to see.

Their work creates ripples beyond the Girl Power refuge centre, influencing communities, shaping policies, and proving that with the proper support, girls can achieve anything.

From Girl Power to Higher Education: Building Careers That Change Lives

A place on Girl Power should lead to meaningful careers that provide financial independence and give back to Ghana. That's why we support our girls through their schooling and encourage them to attend one of our partner universities, ensuring they have the tools to secure stable, prosperous futures.

Many of our young women go on to study midwifery, nursing, or teaching. These fields are essential to the country's development. Becoming a nurse in Ghana is one of the most financially stable and respected career choices, offering graduates security and the ability to uplift their communities. Yet, for many girls, careers in healthcare and education are only a dream, as the enormous costs attached to training make these paths nearly impossible without support.

Through Girl Power, we remove these barriers, providing young women with the resources, mentorship, and financial assistance they need to realise their aspirations. We have seen firsthand how education transforms lives for individuals, their families, and entire communities.

When our students graduate, they don't just build better lives for themselves—they become teachers, shaping the next generation, nurses delivering life-saving care, and midwives ensuring safe childbirth for countless mothers. They become leaders, proving that investing in girls is investing in the future of Ghana.

As we move forward, I will hold onto the fierce determination I saw in our school cooks—because they don't stop, they can't stop, not when so many children depend on them for nourishment, care, and stability.

97p
97p ONE
of every
£1
donated
goes directly
to charitable
activities

Registered Charity Number: 1166497

Principal Address: Porridge and Pens Officer, 1 Chapman Close, Brightlingsea, Essex, CO7 0FS

Trustees: G Weaver (Chair of Trustees), J Meak, E Smith, P Tibbs, E Merrell, C Tibbs (resigned 31.1.24)

UK staff: L Smith, J Williams, G Smith, J Barfield, L Fairle

Bankers: Barclays Bank, 9 High Street, Colchester, CO1 1DA Accountants: Edmund Carr LLP, 146 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0AW

Charity Objectives (as stated in the constitution)

Porridge and Pens works with some of Ghana's most disadvantaged children and young adults. We do this by providing access to free education, medicine, safe shelter, and school meals so that young people can create their own bright and sustainable futures free from poverty.

Strategic Plan 2021 - 2026

Porridge and Pens make changes with three simple strategies: school meals, safe shelter and a place at school.

Through our work at the Brightlingsea Academy and the Girl Power Project, we want to expand the number of children and young people over the next five years.

We will also work within our project communities, targeting families and parents to support their skills development and income growth.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

How we work

Since Porridge and Pens was founded in 2016, we've grown from supporting just 30 children to nearly 600. This incredible growth—especially between 2019 and 2021—has shaped the way we approach sustainability, ensuring we safeguard our charity's future for the long term.

None of this would have been possible without the commitment of our trustees, who have invested in the charity's organisational capacity. By employing staff who are deeply aligned with our mission, we've been able to grow while maintaining stability. This investment has strengthened both our financial resilience and the overall management of our projects, helping us stay true to our vision.

Today, we work closely with two partner organisations in Ghana, who play a vital role in managing the daily operations of our projects. With their expertise and the support of our UK team, we continue to build a strong foundation for the future—ensuring that resources are used wisely to benefit some of Ghana's most disadvantaged young people.

Our entire board of trustees and critical volunteers continue to make an invaluable contribution to the day-to-day management of our organisation. We have some very dedicated volunteers who offer their services to the organisation part-time and voluntarily. Our trustees and staff continue to work hard to ensure the smooth running of the organisation. Trustees are appointed by invitation from the existing board of Trustees. A trustee will be appointed if there is a unanimous agreement among all existing trustees. New Trustees will be given a copy of the Charity Commission's guidance for Trustees, "The Essential Trustee" (CC3), and a copy of the latest accounts.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have paid due regards to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when determining the charity's activities.

Risk Management

The trustees consider and discuss potential risks to the charity at the start of every year and as matters arise, and the CEO is regularly updated on any project risks. We use our risk management policy and seek guidance from the necessary bodies to ensure compliance and limit risk to the organisation, staff, trustees, and beneficiaries.

Sending money to Ghana

Porridge and Pens send funds from the UK bank account to our partners' bank accounts each month, registered as the Brightlingsea Academy School and the Girl Power Foundation NGO. Each month, our Operations Manager works carefully with our Ghanaian partners, generating income based on beneficiaries' needs. The CEO signs the budget and regularly checks it with Porridge and Pens Trustees.

Partners in Ghana

At Porridge and Pens, strong partnerships are at the heart of everything we do. We're proud to work closely with two exceptional projects in Ghana—Girl Power and Brightlingsea Academy—which were founded by Porridge and Pens but are now run by Ghanaian staff through an ethical partnership model. This approach ensures that

leadership and decision-making remain local, while maintaining shared communication every day between our Ghanaian teams and UK support to foster collaboration and accountability.

Girl Power provides a safe and nurturing environment for girls to access free education, vocational training, and essential life skills. Through mentorship and structured support, it empowers young women to gain confidence, financial independence, and leadership opportunities. The project continues to grow, offering vital resources such as improved WASH facilities and entrepreneurial pathways through the Start-Up Scheme.

Brightlingsea Academy is more than a school—it's a beacon of hope for children who otherwise might not have access to education. By creating a safe, inclusive learning space, Brightlingsea Academy ensures every student receives quality teaching, nutritious meals, and holistic support. Investment in staff development, infrastructure, and sustainability projects—such as school gardens and solar energy—help secure its future and reinforce the power of education in shaping brighter futures.

These partnerships are fundamental to our success. By investing in local leadership and maintaining open, daily communication, Porridge and Pens continues to support education, opportunity, and long-term progress for children and young people in Ghana.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The accounts show income in the year of £258,339 (2023 - £270,977) and expenditure of £284,674 (2023 - £316,879) resulting in net expenditure of £26,335 (2023 – net expenditure £45,902). Total funds of the charity at 31 December 2024 were £41,800, of which £35,297 were unrestricted and £6,503 were restricted.

Reserves policy

Porridge and Pens aims to hold general unrestricted reserves of £30,000. The trustees review this amount every three months. This amount is deemed sufficient to support projects at a reduced capacity for around three months should no other source of income be available.

Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the

Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

This annual report was approved by the Trustees of the charity on 15 Sept 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Gregg Weaver

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G Weaver – Chair of Trustees

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

Registered Charity Number 1166497

EDMUND CARR LLP
Chartered Accountants
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 2 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Alex Stone
.....
Alex Stone FCCA

Edmund Carr LLP
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
CM2 0AW

16 Sept 2025

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOME from:					
Donations and legacies:	**2**	91,553	121,541	213,094	214,995
Fundraising activities	**3**	45,222	-	45,222	55,973
Investments - bank interest		23	-	23	9
TOTAL INCOME		136,798	121,541	258,339	270,977
EXPENDITURE on:					
Raising funds: online shop and events		7,625	-	7,625	16,757
Charitable activities	**4**	162,011	115,038	277,049	300,122
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		169,636	115,038	284,674	316,879
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)/ NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(32,838)	6,503	(26,335)	(45,902)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		68,135	-	68,135	114,037
Total funds carried forward		35,297	6,503	41,800	68,135

The notes on pages 4 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

BALANCE SHEET

At 31st December 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**8**		1,888		1,887
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	**9**	2,962		-	
Cash at bank		39,981		70,137	
		42,943		70,137	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	**10**	3,031		3,889	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			39,912		66,248
NET ASSETS			41,800		68,135
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	**12**				
Unrestricted - general		35,297		68,135	
Unrestricted - designated		-		-	
Total unrestricted			35,297		68,135
Restricted			6,503		-
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			41,800		68,135

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on .15 Sept 2025. and signed on their behalf by:

Gregg Weaver

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G Weaver

Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 4 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting
The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Porridge & Pens is an unincorporated registered charity and meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming Resources
Donations are recognised when receivable.

Resources Expended
All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes VAT as the charity is not VAT registered. The majority of costs are attributable to specific charitable activities. Governance costs are associated with the governance arrangements of the charity.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation
Fixed assets are shown at historical cost. Expenditure on tangible fixed assets is capitalised. the cost of other items is written off as incurred.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Computer equipment	25% straight line
Office equipment	25% straight line

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Debtors and creditors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Creditors are recognised at their settlement amount.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and deposits.

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity.

Taxation

As the Association is a charity, it is exempt from taxation - other than VAT, which is included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities - to the extent that any income and gains are applied to its charitable objectives.

2. DONATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations	70,352	-	70,352	99,984
Gift aid	9,899	-	9,899	16,407
Grants	11,302	121,541	132,843	98,604
	91,553	121,541	213,094	214,995

3. FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£		£	£
Online Charity Shop Sales	28,639	-	28,639	25,109
Other fundraising income	16,583	-	16,583	30,864
	45,222	-	45,222	55,973

4. CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Girl Power projects	84,216	32,800	117,016	133,058
Brightlingsea Academy projects	-	82,238	82,238	88,411
Brighter Futures	3,057	-	3,057	2,893
Project delivery staff costs	26,116	-	26,116	23,767
Other project costs	994	-	994	3,868
Direct project expenditure	114,383	115,038	229,421	251,997
Project support costs				
Staff costs	33,700	-	33,700	35,618
Depreciation	963	-	963	743
Printing, postage and freight	1,712	-	1,712	1,377
Insurance	796	-	796	1,008
Staff training	-	-	-	299
IT and telephone	2,823	-	2,823	2,825
Rent and Rates	3,129	-	3,129	1,280
Travel	430	-	430	315
Project support costs	43,553	-	43,553	43,465
Governance costs (note 5)	4,075	-	4,075	4,660
Total cost of charitable expenditure	162,011	115,038	277,049	300,122

5. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£
Fees payable to independent examiner: accounts and examination	3,380	2,280
Prior year underaccruals	-	1,960
Fees payable to independent examiner: other services	-	360
	3,380	4,600
Bank Fees	695	60
	4,075	4,660

6. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS

Total staff costs were as follows:	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages & salaries	58,450	58,247
Employer pension contributions	1,366	1,138
	59,816	59,385

Particulars of employees:

The average number of employees during the year on a headcount basis was:

2024	2023
5	6

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the period.

Key management personnel remuneration in the year totalled £21,797 (2023 - £19,806).

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

No remuneration was paid to Trustees in the year (2023 - Nil)

No travel or subsistence expenses were paid on behalf of Trustees in the year (2023 - Nil).

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment	Computer	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 January 2023	99	3,272	3,371
Additions	846	118	964
At 31st December 2024	945	3,390	4,335
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2023	10	1,474	1,484
Charge for year	130	833	963
At 31st December 2024	140	2,307	2,447
Net book value			
At 31st December 2024	805	1,083	1,888
At 31st December 2023	89	1,798	1,887

9. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gift aid recoverable	802	-
Grants Receivable	2,160	-
	2,962	-

10. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	2,900	2,280
Other creditors	131	1,609
	3,031	3,889

11. RELATED PARTIES TRANSACTIONS

During the year L Weaver, wife of G Weaver (Trustee), was paid wages totalling £162 (2023 - £3,790) in her role as fundraising support officer.

12. FUNDS

	Current Year	Balance at 01/01/2024 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfer	Balance at 31/12/2024 £
	Unrestricted funds					
	General	68,135	136,798	(169,636)	-	35,297
1)	Designated	-	-	-	-	-
		68,135	136,798	(169,636)	-	35,297
	Restricted funds					
2)	Girl Power	-	32,800	(32,800)	-	-
3)	Brightlingsea Academy	-	88,741	(82,238)	-	6,503
		-	121,541	(115,038)	-	6,503

	Prior Year	*Balance at 01/01/2023 £*	*Incoming £*	*Outgoing £*	*Transfer*	*Balance at 31/12/2023 £*
	Unrestricted funds					
	General	*67,737*	*193,074*	*(192,676)*	-	*68,135*
1)	*Designated*	*35,000*	-	*(35,000)*	-	-
		102,737	*193,074*	*(227,676)*	-	*68,135*
	Restricted funds					
2)	*Girl Power*	*6,700*	*36,950*	*(43,650)*	-	-
3)	*Brightlingsea Academy*	*4,600*	*40,953*	*(45,553)*	-	-
		11,300	*77,903*	*(89,203)*	-	-

Designated Funds

1) £35,000 was designated in 2022 and spent in 2023: £15,000 for a Girl Power minibus and £20,000 towards the cost of our Girl Power building work.

Restricted Funds

2) Girl Power: Supporting around 100 girls, young women and their families from informal settlements and low-income families. Funding covered school places, meals mentoring, and safe shelter where needed, helping them avoid child labour, abuse, or homelessness while progressing through education and training. It also provided small business grants and mentoring to students' parents.

3) Brightlingsea Academy: Running a community primary school for around 450 children, providing two daily meals (over 150,000 meals served in 2024) and free education without corporal punishment, teacher salaries and teacher training. It also provided small business grants and mentoring to students' parents.

13. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS (between restricted and unrestricted funds)

Current year	Tangible fixed assets £	Other net assets £	Total £
Restricted	-	6,503	6,503
Designated	-	-	-
Unrestricted	1,888	33,410	35,297
	1,888	39,913	41,800

Prior year

	Tangible fixed assets £	*Other net assets £*	*Total £*
Restricted	-	-	-
Designated	-	-	-
Unrestricted	*1,887*	*66,248*	*68,135*
	1,887	*66,248*	*68,135*

14. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	1,872	1,744
Between one and five years	-	-
	1,872	1,744

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

Registered Charity Number 1166497

EDMUND CARR LLP
Chartered Accountants
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

England & Wales - Charity number 1166497

Accounts

PORRIDGE & PENS™
GHANA

TRUSTEE REPORT

2023

Our Charity

We are incredibly proud of our work and thankful to all our donors and supporters who have helped us keep over 500 children and young people safe and nurtured every day.

We would love to bottle up the happiness experienced at the Brightlingsea Academy, the vibrant energy radiating from our Girl Power Centre each day, and the joy reflected in every student's smile. This combination truly reveals the immense worth of every donation made to the children in Porridge and Pens' projects.

We are a small charity from a coastal town in Essex called Brightlingsea. Our dedicated UK team works daily with our partners in Ghana to feed, educate, and shelter 500 children.

We believe every child in Ghana should have a chance to achieve happiness and financial security in their later life, and this all starts with access to quality education.

Our work is delivered through two long-standing projects: The Girl Power Project and The Brightlingsea Academy.

There is incredible joy and deep impact of our work in Ghana. So much has changed since Porridge and Pens was set up in 2016, and the journey we have embarked on to grow this little charity together is truly remarkable.

PORRIDGE & PENS™ GHANA

Porridge and Pens continue to move mountains through the work of our small charity

Here is a snapshot of our recent achievements:

- Provided nearly 200,000 school meals at our Brightlingsea Academy Project to 400 children in our care each day.
- Kept and enrolled street-affiliated young people in school or university through our Girl Power Project.
- Provided 40,800 free school meals to partner Girl Power Schools.
- Provided safe shelter to our homeless students and weekend breaks to girls living with their families in urban slums at our Girl Power Centre.
- Provided five Girl Power family business grants and mentoring support to beneficiaries' mothers/fathers to help them elevate themselves from poverty.
- Eight Girl Power graduates in Teaching, Midwifery and Engineering.

PORRIDGE & PENS™ GHANA

Highlighting the impact of our work is best done through our students and the transformative journey they make with Porridge and Pens.

Paulina is an exceptional young woman who is now one of our Girl Power Graduates. One of our partner orphanages referred Paulina to us. Paulina spent most of her life at our partner orphanage. Growing up, she supported workers feeding abandoned babies and looking after energetic toddlers. Although she lived there herself, she described her time at the orphanage more like she was a staff member, although she was only a small girl herself when she first moved into the orphanage. She is probably the most caring person we have ever met, and her love for the children at the orphanage comes beaming across.

Paulina always aspired to be a midwife, and it was truly inspiring to watch her proudly display her framed midwifery certificate to our Girl Power Director, Claudia. Despite numerous challenges, she successfully transformed her future.

Since 2018, our Girl Power Project has been dedicated to helping street-affiliated girls by providing essential support such as food, safe housing, and education.

At our Girl Power Centre, we run a comprehensive educational and well-being program for 77 young people who previously faced severe hardships and were out of school.

The girls we assist often deal with financial struggles, food insecurity, mental health challenges, and risks of domestic or sexual violence. Over the years, we have focused on building their confidence and guiding them back into education. We collaborate with nearly 60 partner schools and universities in Ghana, where many of our girls pursue careers as midwives, teachers, and nurses, ultimately graduating with respected qualifications that enable them to earn a living wage.

Our Girl Power Centre

In 2021, we started fundraising for our own Girl Power Centre, which could be used as a children's and women's refuge for our students on the scheme. Through a tough few years of fundraising and huge rising inflation costs in Ghana, we are thrilled to say we have completed the ground floor of Girl Power Centre, apart from aesthetics. This will provide students with permanent, safe shelter for those who live on the streets and have nowhere to go once their school holidays come. It will also be used as a Vocational Centre and teacher training base. We are so excited to see what the future holds for our Girl Power Centre! It means we can stop spending vital funds on renting a property. We still have work before we move in, but we are determined to do it as soon as we can.

Personal Growth

At Girl Power, we not only focus on education but also promote personal growth in every possible way. Our group of 77 girls and eight boys of Brighter Futures (a project under the Girl Power umbrella which supports gifted young men through university and further education) often come from challenging backgrounds, many having experienced the loss of one or both parents. Recently, we took students to swimming lessons, and the happiness on the students' faces was truly unforgettable. With the support of funding, we aim to expand such personal development opportunities in the future.

Mental Health services is a vital part of our work.

Over the past year, through the project, we have:

- Provide new mental health pathways.
- We provided over 240 hours of Mental Health support from our Girl Power Centre alongside outreach sessions at students' homes and within family settings.
- Our Qualified Mental Health Practitioners have diagnosed and provided treatment plans to children and young people in our care.
- Given frequent counselling sessions to some of our staff, who support the children and young people in our care through some of the most extreme social welfare situations, which can leave lingering concerns and memories with our senior social workers.
- Given emergency mental health support to children and young people who have suffered an emergency or crisis over the past year.

Most of the girls have been with us since a young age. We currently have teachers, nurses, and engineers training within their fields. Considering 100% of the student's mothers have never completed their higher education and over 96% are in unskilled and working poorly paid jobs, we can't wait to see what the future holds for our students on Girl Power.

Brightlingsea Academy

At Brightlingsea Academy, we offer support that extends well beyond academics.

One day, we encountered Rhoda, a student from Brightlingsea Academy, on her way to school. Although she appeared a bit tired, her enthusiasm was evident in her stride. She shared her excitement about the day's adventure, as we were set to explore one of Kumasi's tallest peaks. We strive to fund as many school trips as possible, recognising that over 90% of our students have never ventured outside Kumasi. School trips help expand their perspectives and encourage them to aim high.

A student from a partner school selling after school

She yawned once more and our Headteacher inquired about her fatigue. She explained that she sells bunches of bananas every evening after school to support her mother. Balancing a heavy tin bowl on her head, she often feels sore by nightfall, making it difficult to sleep. Each night, she earns around £0.80, and when asked her motivation to do that job, she replied, "If I don't do it, we won't get any money for eating dinner." She also mentioned that she works every Saturday and Sunday from 6:30am to 5pm, along with most school nights, which certainly contributes to her tiredness.

Unfortunately, 13% of children at our school face similar challenges, as their families rely on them to help with meals on weekends and after school. Porridge and Pens still has work to do and we are more determined to do that, than ever.

Without the free meals and education from Brightlingsea Academy, it's likely that 9-year-old Rhoda would have to work full-time.

The schools we partner with provide essential support for the most disadvantaged families. With Rhoda's strong resolve to succeed academically, she is sure to overcome challenges and take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to her through the Porridge and Pens Projects as she advances through her classes.

The Brightlingsea Academy is a small free school for 400 children in a rural part of Kumasi. We practice corporal punishment-free teaching, with the cane and other forms of abuse strictly banned from our school. Sadly, corporal punishment is still common in many Ghanaian Schools. We have a strong teacher training model, seeing high academic results and happy, healthy children. We provide care and education for children from the village between the ages of 0-14. Every child at the Brightlingsea Academy receives two daily free school meals and a free education, with the necessary resources to learn and thrive.

63% of families from the Brightlingsea Academy live within informal and temporary settlements. They are half-built structures, owned by other people and rented to our families; they need more essentials like water, roofing structure, plastering, or flooring. Children who attend our school live in conditions of extreme, multidimensional poverty. The Brightlingsea Academy is a source of consistency, resource, and joy for children from unstable living environments. In 2013, we measured the employment rate of children's mothers to be under 30%. As of February 2022, this is 65% and 96% for children's fathers! We have started to see some parents giving back to our school feeding program, which is a small step to sustainability and helps us provide more significant food portions for everyone. We know 50 children from our school still engage in child labour activities during the weekend and after school from our poorest families.

Our Journey Continues

The journey of Porridge and Pens began over sixteen years ago, and a lot has evolved since then. Together with our amazing team in the UK and Ghana, we are committed to supporting as many children as we can, as every young person deserves a safe place to sleep, nutritious meals, and access to education.

Thank you for your continued support for Porridge and Pens.

Jemma Williams (Founder),
Lia Smith (Operations Manager),
Gregg Weaver (Chair of Trustees).

PORRIDGE & PENS™ GHANA

REFERENCE AND ADMINSTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name: Porridge and Pens Ghana

Registered Charity Number: 1166497

Principal Address: Porridge and Pens Officer, 1 Chapman Close, Brightlingsea, Essex, CO7 0FS.

Trustees: G Weaver (Chair of Trustees), J Meek, E Merrell, E Smith, P Tibbs, C Tibbs (resigned 30 January 2024).

Key management personnel: J Williams (Founder and CEO), L Smith (Operations Manager).

Bankers: Barclays Bank, 9 High Street, Colchester, CO1 1DA.

Independent Examiner: Sandra Morrell FCCA, Edmund Carr LLP, 146 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0AW.

CHARITY OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity as stated in the governing document are to relieve poverty of orphaned, abandoned and vulnerable children, young adults and families, by provision of such grants and donations as shall be thought fit to orphanages, schools, individuals and families in Kumasi, Ghana, to improve their conditions of life.

Porridge and Pens works with some of Ghana's most disadvantaged children and young adults. We do this by providing access to free education, medicine, safe shelter, and school meals so that young people can create their own bright and sustainable futures free from poverty.

Strategic Plan 2021 - 2026

Porridge and Pens make changes with three simple strategies: school meals, safe shelter and a place at school.

Through our work at the Brightlingsea Academy and the Girl Power Project, we want to expand the number of children and young people over the next five years.

We will also work within our project communities, targeting families and parents to support their skills development and income growth.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit when determining the charity’s activities.

Our activities and achievements throughout the year are detailed in the first part of this report.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

How we work

Because our resources are so limited, we work hard to ensure our structure and management always enable us to benefit Ghana's poorest young people. Since Porridge and Pens was established in 2016, the number of beneficiaries seeking support from one of our projects in Ghana has increased by 80%. Most of this growth has been in the past three years. It is only possible because trustees have invested in our charity's organisational capacity by employing staff which has driven growth against our vision and mission. In 2020, a UK Operations Manager joined the Chief Executive Officer to support the charity's efforts in Ghana. Investment in our organisational capacity has continued to support the management of charity and projects and contributed to our stable income and expenditure.

Our entire board of trustees and critical volunteers continue to make an invaluable contribution to the day-to-day management of our organisation. We have some very dedicated volunteers who offer their services to the organisation part-time and voluntarily. Our trustees and staff continue to work hard to ensure the smooth running of the organisation. Trustees are appointed by invitation from the existing board of Trustees. A trustee will be appointed if there is a unanimous agreement among all existing trustees. New Trustees will be given a copy of the Charity Commission's guidance for Trustees, "The Essential Trustee" (CC3), and a copy of the latest accounts.

Risk Management

Potential risk to the charity is considered and discussed by the trustees at the start of every year, and the CEO is regularly updated on any project risks. We use our risk management policy and seek guidance from the necessary bodies to ensure compliance and limit risk to the organisation, staff, trustees, and beneficiaries.

Sending money to Ghana

Porridge and Pens send funds from the UK bank account to our partners' bank accounts each month, registered as the Brightlingsea Academy School and the Girl Power Foundation NGO. Each month, our operations Manager works carefully with our Ghanaian partners, generating income based on beneficiaries' needs. The CEO signs the budget and regularly checks it with Porridge and Pens Trustees.

Partners in Ghana

Porridge and Pens works carefully with selected partners to fulfil the aims of our Girl Power Project and the Brightlingsea Academy, which are separate, registered NGO's in Ghana. Porridge and Pens supplies our partners with monthly grants according to their needs.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The accounts show income in the year of £270,977 (2022 - £283,453) and expenditure of £316,879 (2022 - £265,098) resulting in net expenditure of £45,902 (2022 – net income £18,355). Total funds of the charity at 31 December 2023 were £68,135, all of which were unrestricted.

Reserves policy

Porridge and Pens aims to hold minimum general unrestricted reserves of £30,000. The trustees review this amount every three months. This amount is deemed sufficient to support projects at a reduced capacity for around three months should no other source of income be available.

Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a ‘true and fair’ view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a ‘true and fair view’. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

This annual report was approved by the Trustees of the charity on …….. and signed on their behalf by:

.....

G Weaver – Chair of Trustees

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

Registered Charity Number 1166497

EDMUND CARR LLP
Chartered Accountants
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 2 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

.....
Sandra Morrell FCCA

Edmund Carr LLP
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
CM2 0AW

.....

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOME from:					
Donations and legacies:	**2**	136,940	77,903	214,843	258,647
Fundraising activities	**3**	55,973	-	55,973	23,739
Other income		161	-	161	1,067
TOTAL INCOME		193,074	77,903	270,977	283,453
EXPENDITURE on:					
Raising funds		16,757	-	16,757	2,221
Charitable activities	**4**	210,919	89,203	300,122	262,877
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		227,676	89,203	316,879	265,098
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)/ NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(34,602)	(11,300)	(45,902)	18,355
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		102,737	11,300	114,037	95,682
Total funds carried forward		68,135	-	68,135	114,037

The notes on pages 4 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

BALANCE SHEET

At 31st December 2023

	Note	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**8**		1,887		1,290
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	**9**	-		22,318	
Cash at bank		70,019		92,429	
Petty Cash		118			
		70,137		114,747	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	**10**	3,889		2,000	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			66,248		112,747
NET ASSETS			68,135		114,037
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	**12**				
Unrestricted - general		68,135		86,092	
Unrestricted - designated		-		35,000	
Total unrestricted			68,135		102,737
Restricted			-		11,300
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			68,135		114,037

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on …..... and signed on their behalf by:

….....

G Weaver

Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 4 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting
The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Porridge & Pens is an unincorporated registered charity and meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming Resources
Donations are recognised when receivable.

Resources Expended
All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes VAT as the charity is not VAT registered. The majority of costs are attributable to specific charitable activities. Governance costs are associated with the governance arrangements of the charity.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation
Fixed assets are shown at historical cost. Expenditure on tangible fixed assets is capitalised. the cost of other items is written off as incurred.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Computer equipment	25% straight line
Office equipment	25% straight line

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Debtors and creditors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Creditors are recognised at their settlement amount.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and deposits.

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity.

Taxation

As the Association is a charity, it is exempt from taxation - other than VAT, which is included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities - to the extent that any income and gains are applied to its charitable objectives.

2. DONATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations	99,833	-	99,833	136,588
Gift aid	16,407	-	16,407	26,194
Grants	20,701	77,903	98,604	95,865
	136,940	77,903	214,843	258,647

3. FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£		£	£
Sales	25,109	-	25,109	2,813
Other fundraising income	30,864	-	30,864	20,926
	55,973	-	55,973	23,739

4. CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Girl Power projects	89,408	43,650	133,058	130,979
Brightlingsea Academy projects	42,858	45,553	88,411	84,766
Brighter Futures	2,893	-	2,893	-
Other direct costs	3,868	-	3,868	5,090
	139,027	89,203	228,230	220,835
Support and administration costs:				
Depreciation	743	-	743	507
Printing, postage and freight	1,377	-	1,377	2,200
Insurance	1,008	-	1,008	439
Staff training	299	-	299	-
IT and telephone	2,825	-	2,825	1,030
Salaries	58,247	-	58,247	31,632
Pensions Costs	1,138	-	1,138	959
Rent	1,280	-	1,280	-
Travel	315	-	315	904
Governance costs (note 5)	4,660	-	4,660	4,371
Total support costs	71,892	-	71,892	42,042
Total cost of charitable expenditure	210,919	89,203	300,122	262,877

5. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£
Fees payable to independent examiner: accounts and examination	2,280	2,096
Prior year underaccruals	1,960	-
Fees payable to independent examiner: other services	360	768
	4,600	2,864
Bank Fees	60	5
Trustee Expenses	-	1,502
	4,660	4,371

6. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS

Total staff costs were as follows:	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages & salaries	58,247	31,632
Employer pension contributions	1,138	959
	59,385	32,591

Particulars of employees:

The average number of employees during the year on a headcount basis was:

2023	2022
6	2

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the period.

Key management personnel remuneration totalled £19,806.

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

No remuneration was paid to Trustees in the year (2022 - Nil)

No travel or subsistence expenses were paid on behalf of Trustees in the year (2022 - £1,502).

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment	Computer	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 January 2022	-	2,030	2,030
Additions	99	1,242	1,341
At 31st December 2023	99	3,272	3,371
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2022	-	740	740
Charge for year	10	734	744
At 31st December 2023	10	1,474	1,484
Net book value			
At 31st December 2023	89	1,798	1,887
At 31st December 2022	-	1,290	1,290

9. DEBTORS

	2023	0	2022
	£		£
Gift aid recoverable	-		22,318

10. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	0	2022
	£		£
Accruals	2,280		2,000
Other creditors	1,609		1,609
	3,889		3,609

11. RELATED PARTIES TRANSACTIONS

During the year L Weaver, wife of G Weaver (Trustee), was paid wages totalling £3,790 in her role as fundraising support officer.

12. FUNDS

	Current Year	Balance at 01/01/2023 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfer	Balance at 31/12/2023 £
	Unrestricted funds					
	General	67,737	193,074	(192,676)	-	68,135
1)	Designated	35,000	-	(35,000)	-	-
		102,737	193,074	(227,676)	-	68,135
	Restricted funds					
2)	Girl Power	6,700	36,950	(43,650)	-	-
3)	Brightlingsea Academy	4,600	40,953	(45,553)	-	-
		11,300	77,903	(89,203)	-	-

	Prior Year	*Balance at 01/01/2022 £*	*Incoming £*	*Outgoing £*	*Transfer*	*Balance at 31/12/2022 £*
	Unrestricted funds					
	General	*62,962*	*160,497*	*(120,722)*	*(35,000)*	*67,737*
1)	*Designated*	*10,000*	*-*	*(10,000)*	*35,000*	*35,000*
		72,962	*160,497*	*(130,722)*	*-*	*102,737*
	Restricted funds					
2)	*Girl Power*	*20,250*	*74,069*	*(87,619)*	*-*	*6,700*
3)	*Brightlingsea Academy*	*2,470*	*48,887*	*(46,757)*	*-*	*4,600*
		22,720	*122,956*	*(134,376)*	*-*	*11,300*

1) Designated Funds; £10,000 designated in 2021 was used for our Girl Power Project development in 2022. A further £35,000 was designated in 2022: £15,000 for a Girl Power minibus and £20,000 towards the cost of our Girl Power building work.

2) Girl Power Supporting girls and young women from informal settlements and low-income families with free education at good schools with strong headteachers. We aim to make a difference to girls who are at risk of not completing their education, those at risk of child labour, abuse or homelessness.

3) The Brightlingsea Acadamy is a small school for 340 children. It is a school free of corporal punishment. Children from remote communites and surrounding villages can complete their primary school education and received two complimentary meals daily. Students' parents are able to find employment opportunities while their children attend school.

13. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS (between restricted and unrestricted funds)

Current year	Tangible fixed assets £	Other net assets £	Total £
Restricted	-	-	-
Designated	-	-	-
Unrestricted	1,887	68,135	68,135
	1,887	66,248	68,135

Prior year

	Tangible fixed assets £	*Other net assets £*	*Total £*
Restricted	-	*11,300*	*11,300*
Designated	-	*35,000*	*35,000*
Unrestricted	*1,290*	*66,447*	*67,737*
	1,290	*112,747*	*114,037*

14. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	1,744	-
Between one and five years	-	-
	1,744	-

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

This information does not form part of the statutory accounts

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Online donation	11,962		12,425	
Regular online donor	15,557		15,702	
Bank regular donor	11,473		12,577	
Bank donation	15,470		76,460	
Corporate donors	22,435		9,750	
Give as you earn	600		25	
Big Give	18,203		6,808	
School fundraising	376		68	
Rotary donations	1,100		1,940	
Club donations	1,587		600	
Amazon Smile	237		233	
REACT	824		-	
Interest Income	9		-	
Donations		99,833		136,588
HMRC Gift Aid		16,407		26,194
Grants		98,604		95,865
Sales	-		844	
Cash Donations	1,444		-	
Selling pod	23,585		1,909	
Etsy shop	80		60	
Trading income		25,109		2,813
External fundraisers	24,974		18,192	
Event fundraising	5,890		2,734	
Fundraising		30,864		20,926
Other income		161		1,067
Total Income		270,977		283,453

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Expenditure				
Fundraiser participant cost	7,836		887	
Fundraising cost	3,374		518	
Just Giving fees	216		216	
Paypal Fees	1,176		600	
Selling Pod Costs	3,871		-	
Advertising and Marketing	180		-	
Etsy Shop Costs	103		-	
Sum up transaction Costs	1		-	
Costs of raising funds		16,757		2,221
Brighter Futures	2,893		-	
SEN Expenses	288		-	
Girl Power Abrotia School	458		1,038	
Girl power Centre	106,980		89,289	
Building costs Girl Power	21,517		40,312	
Family Shelter	235		-	
Brightlingsea Academy	88,411		84,766	
Start Up Project	4,103		340	
Project assessment visits	3,345		5,090	
Direct costs of charitable activities		228,230		220,835
Salaries	58,247		31,632	
Pensions Costs	1,138		959	
Staff Training Costs	299		-	
Rent	1,280		-	
Telephone & Internet	129		-	
Depreciation	743		507	
Postage, Freight & Courier	487		1,513	
Insurance	1,008		439	
Printing & Stationery	890		687	
IT Software and Consumables	2,696		1,030	
Travel - National	315		904	
Support costs		67,232		37,671
Audit & Accountancy fees	4,600		2,864	
Bank Fees	60		5	
Trustee Expenses	-		1,502	
Governance costs		4,660		4,371
Total expenditure		316,879		265,098
Net income/(expenditure)		(45,902)		18,355

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

Registered Charity Number 1166497

EDMUND CARR LLP
Chartered Accountants
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees	**1**
Statement of financial activities	**2**
Balance sheet	**3**
Notes to the financial statements	**4**

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 2 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

.....
Sandra Morrell FCCA

Edmund Carr LLP
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
CM2 0AW

.....

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
INCOME from:					
Donations and legacies:	**2**	136,940	77,903	214,843	258,647
Fundraising activities	**3**	55,973	-	55,973	23,739
Other income		161	-	161	1,067
TOTAL INCOME		193,074	77,903	270,977	283,453
EXPENDITURE on:					
Raising funds		16,757	-	16,757	2,221
Charitable activities	**4**	210,919	89,203	300,122	262,877
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		227,676	89,203	316,879	265,098
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)/ NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(34,602)	(11,300)	(45,902)	18,355
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		102,737	11,300	114,037	95,682
Total funds carried forward		68,135	-	68,135	114,037

The notes on pages 4 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

BALANCE SHEET

At 31st December 2023

	Note	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**8**		1,887		1,290
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	**9**	-		22,318	
Cash at bank		70,019		92,429	
Petty Cash		118			
		70,137		114,747	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	**10**	3,889		2,000	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			66,248		112,747
NET ASSETS			68,135		114,037
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	**12**				
Unrestricted - general		68,135		86,092	
Unrestricted - designated		-		35,000	
Total unrestricted			68,135		102,737
Restricted			-		11,300
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			68,135		114,037

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on …..... and signed on their behalf by:

….....

G Weaver

Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 4 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting
The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Porridge & Pens is an unincorporated registered charity and meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming Resources
Donations are recognised when receivable.

Resources Expended
All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes VAT as the charity is not VAT registered. The majority of costs are attributable to specific charitable activities. Governance costs are associated with the governance arrangements of the charity.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation
Fixed assets are shown at historical cost. Expenditure on tangible fixed assets is capitalised. the cost of other items is written off as incurred.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Computer equipment	25% straight line
Office equipment	25% straight line

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Debtors and creditors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Creditors are recognised at their settlement amount.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and deposits.

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity.

Taxation

As the Association is a charity, it is exempt from taxation - other than VAT, which is included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities - to the extent that any income and gains are applied to its charitable objectives.

2. DONATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations	99,833	-	99,833	136,588
Gift aid	16,407	-	16,407	26,194
Grants	20,701	77,903	98,604	95,865
	136,940	77,903	214,843	258,647

3. FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£		£	£
Sales	25,109	-	25,109	2,813
Other fundraising income	30,864	-	30,864	20,926
	55,973	-	55,973	23,739

4. CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Girl Power projects	89,408	43,650	133,058	130,979
Brightlingsea Academy projects	42,858	45,553	88,411	84,766
Brighter Futures	2,893	-	2,893	-
Other direct costs	3,868	-	3,868	5,090
	139,027	89,203	228,230	220,835
Support and administration costs:				
Depreciation	743	-	743	507
Printing, postage and freight	1,377	-	1,377	2,200
Insurance	1,008	-	1,008	439
Staff training	299	-	299	-
IT and telephone	2,825	-	2,825	1,030
Salaries	58,247	-	58,247	31,632
Pensions Costs	1,138	-	1,138	959
Rent	1,280	-	1,280	-
Travel	315	-	315	904
Governance costs (note 5)	4,660	-	4,660	4,371
Total support costs	71,892	-	71,892	42,042
Total cost of charitable expenditure	210,919	89,203	300,122	262,877

5. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£
Fees payable to independent examiner: accounts and examination	2,280	2,096
Prior year underaccruals	1,960	-
Fees payable to independent examiner: other services	360	768
	4,600	2,864
Bank Fees	60	5
Trustee Expenses	-	1,502
	4,660	4,371

6. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS

Total staff costs were as follows:	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages & salaries	58,247	31,632
Employer pension contributions	1,138	959
	59,385	32,591

Particulars of employees:

The average number of employees during the year on a headcount basis was:

2023	2022
6	2

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the period.

Key management personnel remuneration totalled £19,806.

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

No remuneration was paid to Trustees in the year (2022 - Nil)

No travel or subsistence expenses were paid on behalf of Trustees in the year (2022 - £1,502).

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment	Computer	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 January 2022	-	2,030	2,030
Additions	99	1,242	1,341
At 31st December 2023	99	3,272	3,371
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2022	-	740	740
Charge for year	10	734	744
At 31st December 2023	10	1,474	1,484
Net book value			
At 31st December 2023	89	1,798	1,887
At 31st December 2022	-	1,290	1,290

9. DEBTORS

	2023	0	2022
	£		£
Gift aid recoverable	-		22,318

10. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	0	2022
	£		£
Accruals	2,280		2,000
Other creditors	1,609		1,609
	3,889		3,609

11. RELATED PARTIES TRANSACTIONS

During the year L Weaver, wife of G Weaver (Trustee), was paid wages totalling £3,790 in her role as fundraising support officer.

12. FUNDS

	Current Year	Balance at 01/01/2023 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfer	Balance at 31/12/2023 £
	Unrestricted funds					
	General	67,737	193,074	(192,676)	-	68,135
1)	Designated	35,000	-	(35,000)	-	-
		102,737	193,074	(227,676)	-	68,135
	Restricted funds					
2)	Girl Power	6,700	36,950	(43,650)	-	-
3)	Brightlingsea Academy	4,600	40,953	(45,553)	-	-
		11,300	77,903	(89,203)	-	-

	Prior Year	*Balance at 01/01/2022 £*	*Incoming £*	*Outgoing £*	*Transfer*	*Balance at 31/12/2022 £*
	Unrestricted funds					
	General	*62,962*	*160,497*	*(120,722)*	*(35,000)*	*67,737*
1)	*Designated*	*10,000*	*-*	*(10,000)*	*35,000*	*35,000*
		72,962	*160,497*	*(130,722)*	*-*	*102,737*
	Restricted funds					
2)	*Girl Power*	*20,250*	*74,069*	*(87,619)*	*-*	*6,700*
3)	*Brightlingsea Academy*	*2,470*	*48,887*	*(46,757)*	*-*	*4,600*
		22,720	*122,956*	*(134,376)*	*-*	*11,300*

1) Designated Funds; £10,000 designated in 2021 was used for our Girl Power Project development in 2022. A further £35,000 was designated in 2022: £15,000 for a Girl Power minibus and £20,000 towards the cost of our Girl Power building work.

2) Girl Power Supporting girls and young women from informal settlements and low-income families with free education at good schools with strong headteachers. We aim to make a difference to girls who are at risk of not completing their education, those at risk of child labour, abuse or homelessness.

3) The Brightlingsea Acadamy is a small school for 340 children. It is a school free of corporal punishment. Children from remote communites and surrounding villages can complete their primary school education and received two complimentary meals daily. Students' parents are able to find employment opportunities while their children attend school.

13. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS (between restricted and unrestricted funds)

Current year	Tangible fixed assets £	Other net assets £	Total £
Restricted	-	-	-
Designated	-	-	-
Unrestricted	1,887	68,135	68,135
	1,887	66,248	68,135

Prior year

	Tangible fixed assets £	*Other net assets £*	*Total £*
Restricted	-	*11,300*	*11,300*
Designated	-	*35,000*	*35,000*
Unrestricted	*1,290*	*66,447*	*67,737*
	1,290	*112,747*	*114,037*

14. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	1,744	-
Between one and five years	-	-
	1,744	-

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

This information does not form part of the statutory accounts

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Online donation	11,962		12,425	
Regular online donor	15,557		15,702	
Bank regular donor	11,473		12,577	
Bank donation	15,470		76,460	
Corporate donors	22,435		9,750	
Give as you earn	600		25	
Big Give	18,203		6,808	
School fundraising	376		68	
Rotary donations	1,100		1,940	
Club donations	1,587		600	
Amazon Smile	237		233	
REACT	824		-	
Interest Income	9		-	
Donations		99,833		136,588
HMRC Gift Aid		16,407		26,194
Grants		98,604		95,865
Sales	-		844	
Cash Donations	1,444		-	
Selling pod	23,585		1,909	
Etsy shop	80		60	
Trading income		25,109		2,813
External fundraisers	24,974		18,192	
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Fundraising		30,864		20,926
Other income		161		1,067
Total Income		270,977		283,453

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023		2022	
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Etsy Shop Costs	103		-	
Sum up transaction Costs	1		-	
Costs of raising funds		16,757		2,221
Brighter Futures	2,893		-	
SEN Expenses	288		-	
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Girl power Centre	106,980		89,289	
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Family Shelter	235		-	
Brightlingsea Academy	88,411		84,766	
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Project assessment visits	3,345		5,090	
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Staff Training Costs	299		-	
Rent	1,280		-	
Telephone & Internet	129		-	
Depreciation	743		507	
Postage, Freight & Courier	487		1,513	
Insurance	1,008		439	
Printing & Stationery	890		687	
IT Software and Consumables	2,696		1,030	
Travel - National	315		904	
Support costs		67,232		37,671
Audit & Accountancy fees	4,600		2,864	
Bank Fees	60		5	
Trustee Expenses	-		1,502	
Governance costs		4,660		4,371
Total expenditure		316,879		265,098
Net income/(expenditure)		(45,902)		18,355

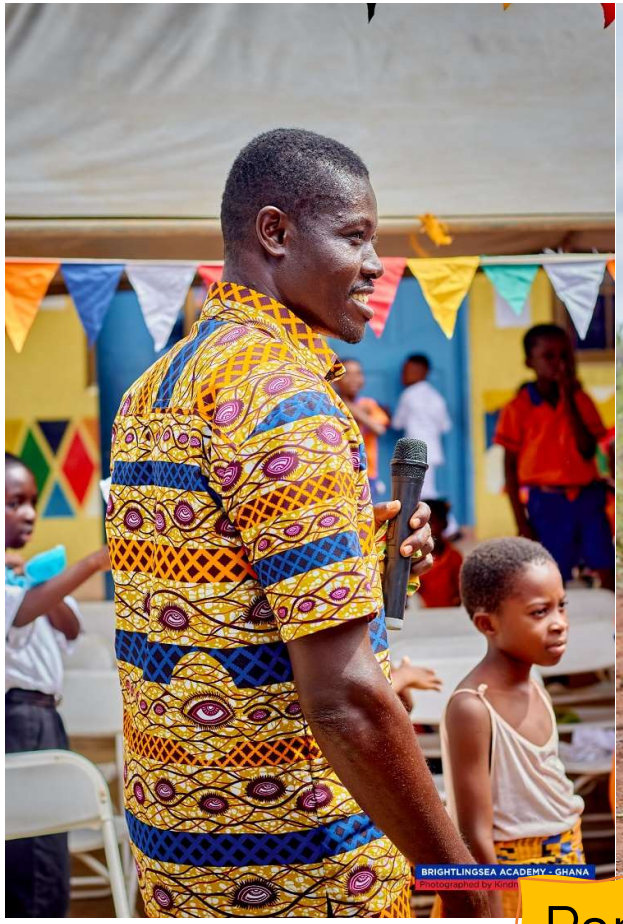
PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

England & Wales - Charity number 1166497

Accounts

Welcome to Porridge and Pens

2022 Annual Trustee Report



Porridge and Pens had a year of development and growth, led by our Ghanaian partners.

The Brightlingsea Academy 2022

Over 700 nutritious meals cooked each day, with bigger portions and better nutritional value.

340 children enrolled at The Brightlingsea Academy supported with a free education.

Corporal punishment free teaching, continued to be led by Ben Antwi Boetang – Headteacher.

Girl Power 2022

Over 80 girls enrolled within Girl Power, between the ages of 5-27 receiving free education, safe shelter when needed and guidance from Claudia, our Girl Power Foundation Country Director, and her team.

Supporting girls and young women from informal settlements and low-income families with free education at good schools with strong headteachers.

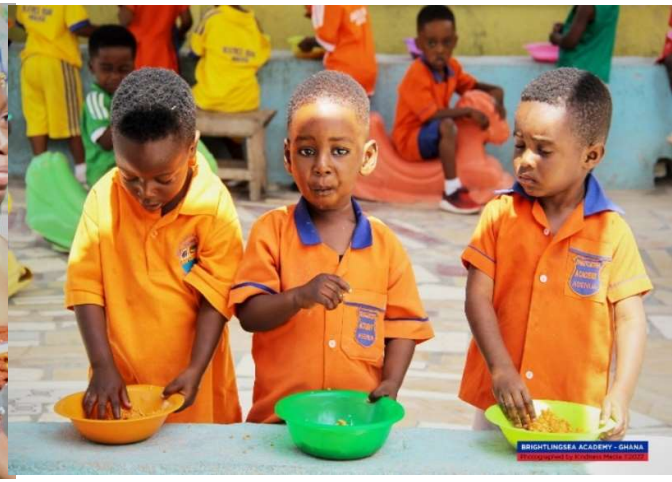
Our UK and Ghanaian Teams work in partnership with a common goal to support over 520 children and young adults every day to fulfil our charities objectives: Children should have food to eat at school, free education, and safe shelter.

The Brightlingsea Academy – Established in 2016

The Brightlingsea Academy is a small school for 340 children in rural Kumasi, known as The Assenua Village, established in 2016. It is a free school with no corporal punishment. You will find some of the most caring and dedicated teachers you could ever meet there. They are led by Ben, a genuinely remarkable Headteacher and leader. Ben leads the groundbreaking Brightlingsea Academy, which we believe is one of a kind. The joy felt at the Brightlingsea Academy is indescribable, it is the embodiment of happiness.

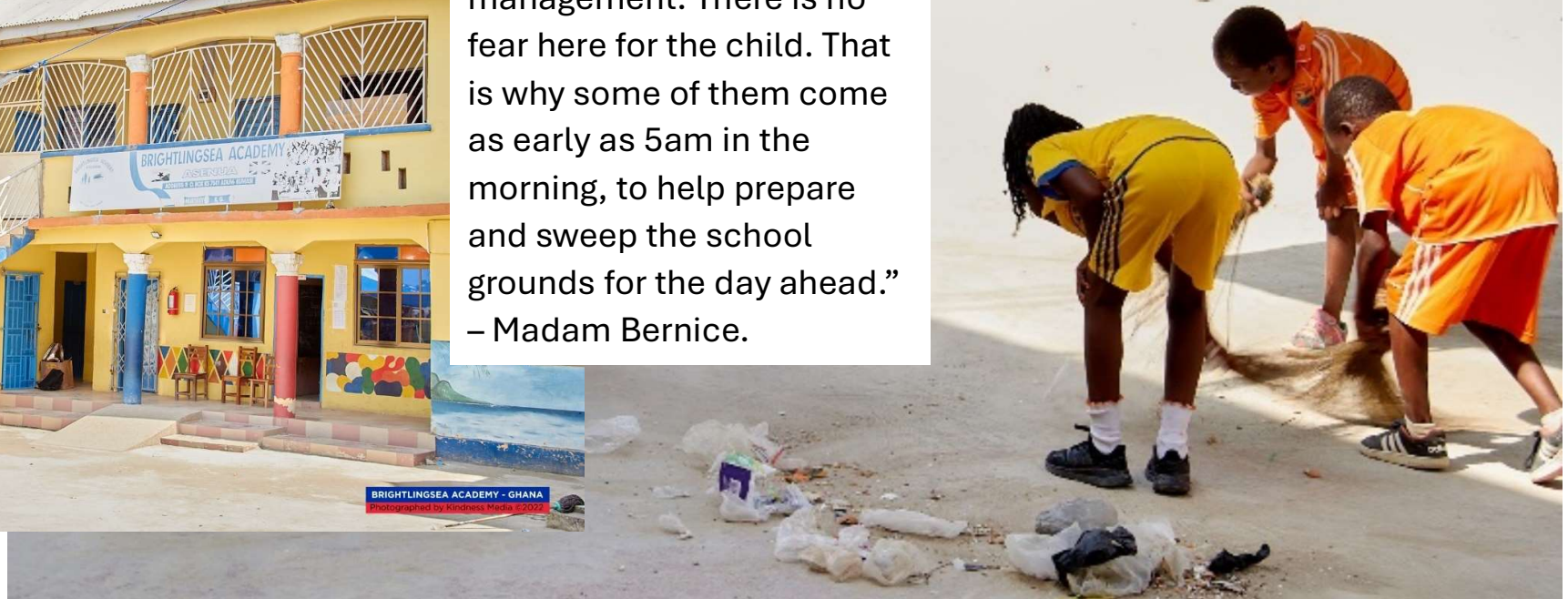
In the community and surrounding villages, children who attend the school live in conditions of multi-dimensional poverty. 50% of households in the village live without electricity or access to clean water. Initially, it was a school for 30 children aged 0-5 years with four classrooms. Now, with growing support, we have 13 classrooms, a sick bay, and resources room.

We employ twenty members of staff teaching 340 children aged 0-14. Children from remote communities and surrounding villages can complete their primary school education and receive two complimentary meals daily. Student's parents are able to find employment opportunities while their children attend school.



"What makes the Brightlingsea Academy different is the way we treat our staff, because they feel loved, they care more for the children. Devoted teachers, who are paid fairly and treated with care and kindness." – Ben Antwi Boetang, Headteacher of Brightlingsea Academy

“Our school is a beautiful, vibrant, and bright. There is colour and joy everywhere and no sign of the cane. We use other strategies to help support behaviour management. There is no fear here for the child. That is why some of them come as early as 5am in the morning, to help prepare and sweep the school grounds for the day ahead.” – Madam Bernice.



“Children at The Brightlingsea Academy thrive, they have a wholesome and deeply rich curriculum. We don’t just teach the basics, children get a little bit of everything to find their passions and strengths. At Brightlingsea Academy we teach confidence” – Jemma Williams, Founder of Porridge and Pens Ghana.

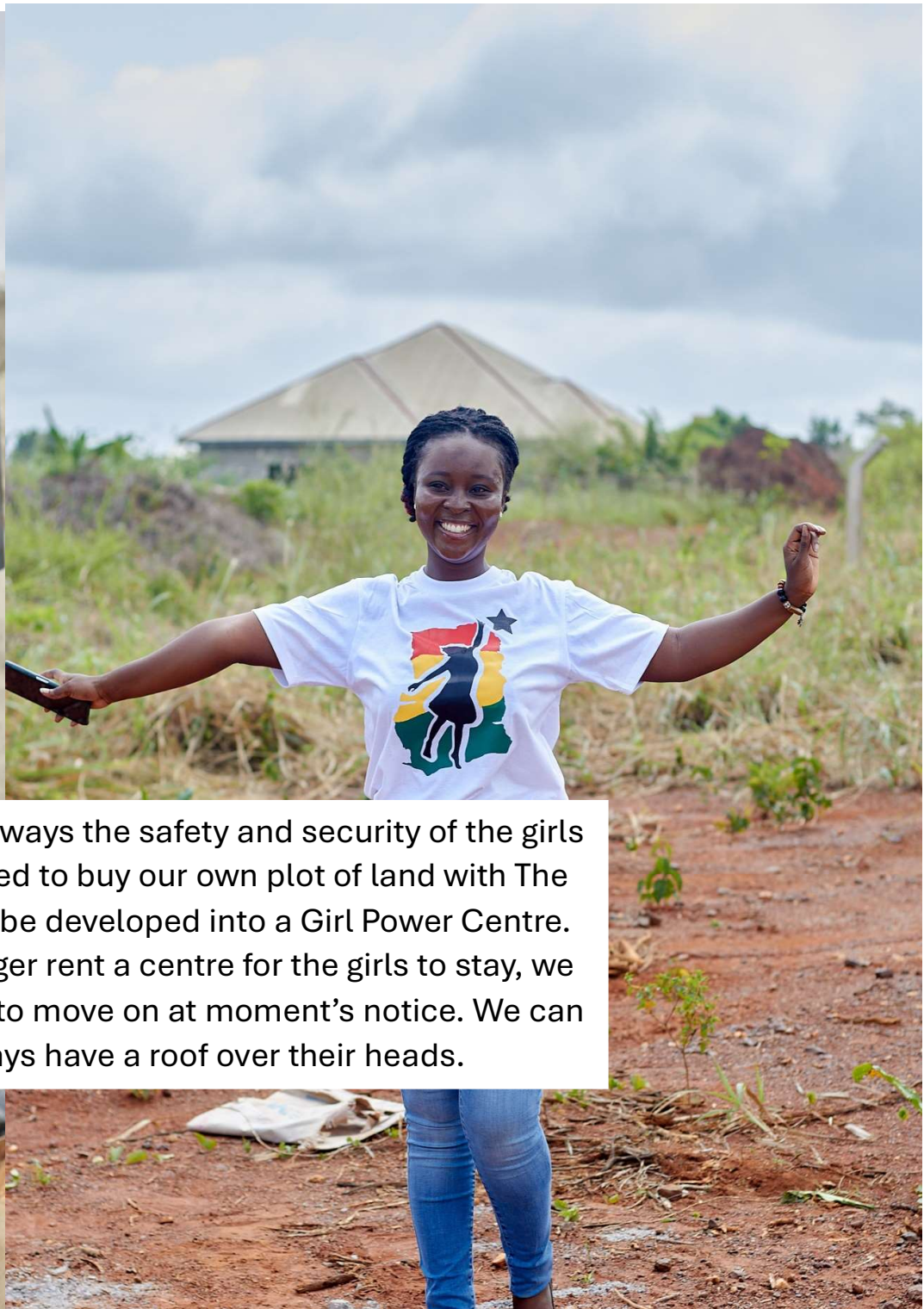
We know this about the children from our school:
63% of families live within informal settlements and can be asked to move on at moment's notice.
The staff and teachers at Brightlingsea Academy support families to find better and more secure conditions for within the village.
BRIGHTLINGSEA ACADEMY - G
Photographed by Kindness Media

But we also know The Brightlingsea Academy is making a significant difference:

- 73% of mothers are now working.
- 94% of fathers are now working.
- 100% of children don't feel hungry during the school day – 80% of children from government schools do.

The Girl Power Project – Established in 2018

We work in partnership with The Girl Power Foundation LGB, based primarily in Kumasi, to make a difference to girls who at risk of not completing their education, those at risk of child labour, abuse or homeless. In partnership with Girl Power, we facilitate and fund girls' and young women's places at school, college, or university. In the areas we work, approximately 3% of students are enrolled in higher education, and of those just 11% are female. Girl Power strives to support girls to complete their higher education as, once a girl graduates with a degree, they earn an average of £65 a week, compared to their peers who earn as little as £7.50 a week as an unskilled worker. We work in partnership with local orphanages, NGOs, schools, universities, churches and families to identify girls and young women between the ages of 5-30, living in multi-dimensional poverty, who have a strong desire to improve their own circumstances through an education pathway. We offer mentoring through our Girl Power partner charity and safe shelter at their residential centre for girls.



One of our biggest concerns is always the safety and security of the girls we support. In 2022, we managed to buy our own plot of land with The Girl Power Foundation. This will be developed into a Girl Power Centre. Once completed, we will no longer rent a centre for the girls to stay, we won't have the fear of being told to move on at moment's notice. We can be sure the girls will always have a roof over their heads.

In 2022 we received more funding than previous years, ringfenced to Higher Education for our students. This means we have more trainee teachers, nurses, midwifes and even engineers going through Girl Power than ever before. They are the future of Ghana.

“What is more apparent than ever, is a place on Girl Power transforms a girl’s life. Yes, it provides them with food, water, shelter, education, clothes, and opportunities but perhaps most importantly, it provides a sense of unity, family and security, something they might not have had before they joined the project. – Jemma Williams, Founder of Porridge and Pens.

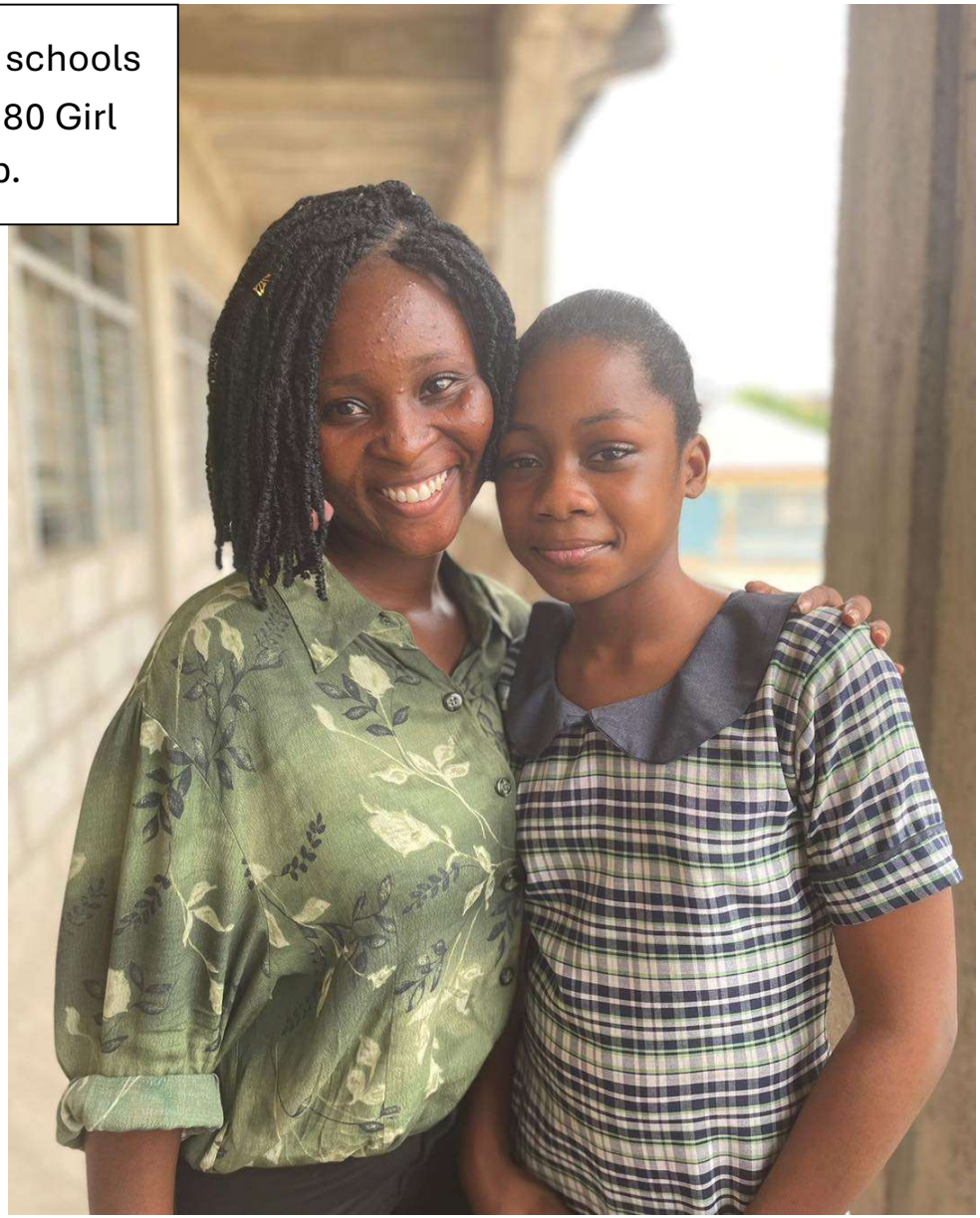
"Girl Power is my supportive family; it is perfect to me. A lifesaving project which has given me a new world. It's my joy."

A year of highlights 2022

In February our UK

Operations Manager, Lia Smith, went to visit Ghana for the first time since she started working with us in 2018. It was a fantastic trip, meeting our partners in Ghana.

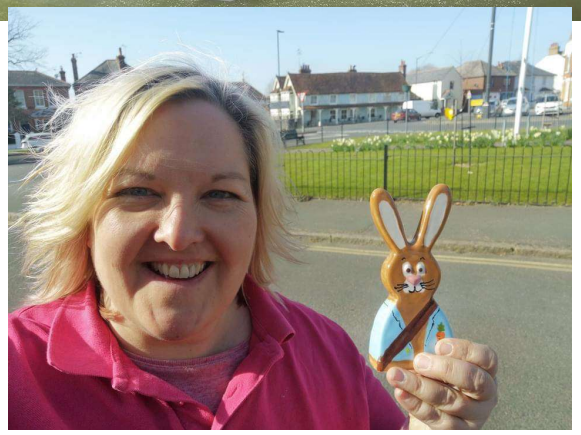
In February we were working with over 30 schools and universities in Ghana. They facilitate over 80 Girl Power educational spaces in partnership.



In March we received support from existing and new connections with local community groups, clubs, and schools. We are always grateful to have opportunities to share the work we do.

On March 8th 2022 we lost our beautiful school cook, Anita. Anita left behind seven children, two of whom still study at Brightlingsea Academy. Anita is remembered fondly and will always be missed. She had a truly beautiful nature and kindess about her.

In April, over the Easter Holidays, we held an Easter trail fundraiser for the residents of Brightlingsea to get involved with. Its become a sucessful annual event raising vital unrestricted funds for Porridge and Pens.



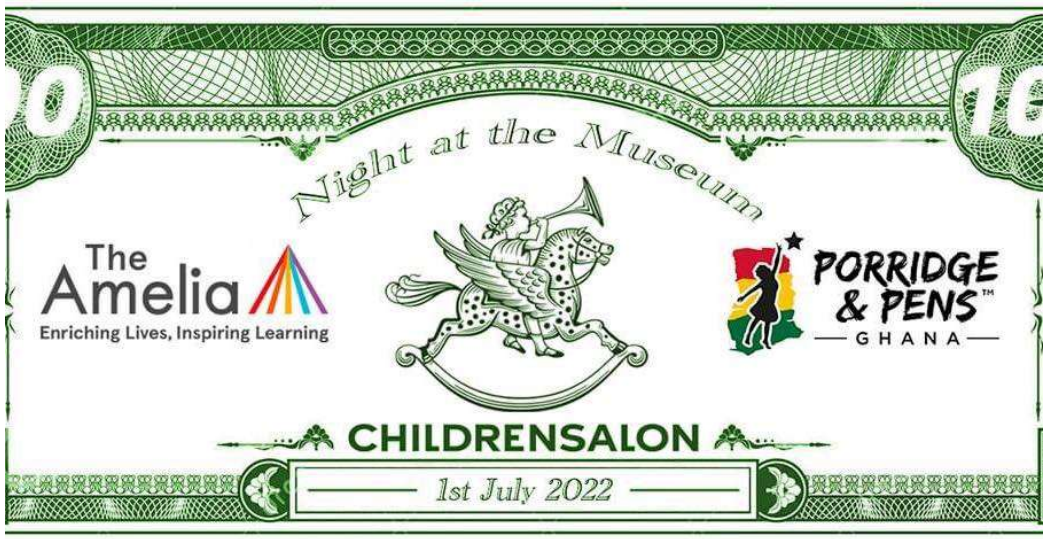
In May, our friends at Childrensalon took on a triathlon for us!

And we had more trainee teachers on Girl Power than ever before!

Our Chair of Trustees and Founder took on Ride London raising over £2000.

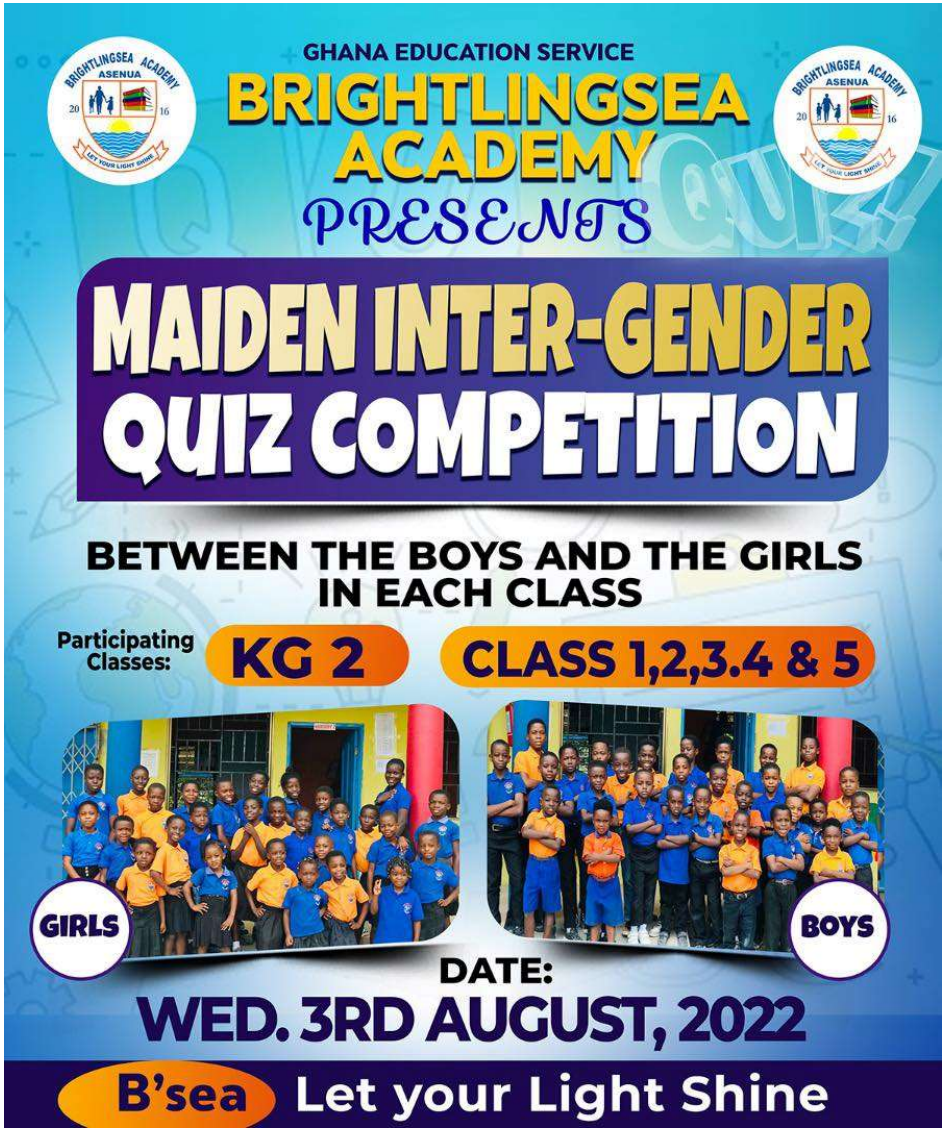
In June, there was fundraising for Porridge and Pens from as far as Florida!

And even more charity talks all over Essex!



In July, we held three summer fundraising events from Tunbridge Wells to Brightlingsea!

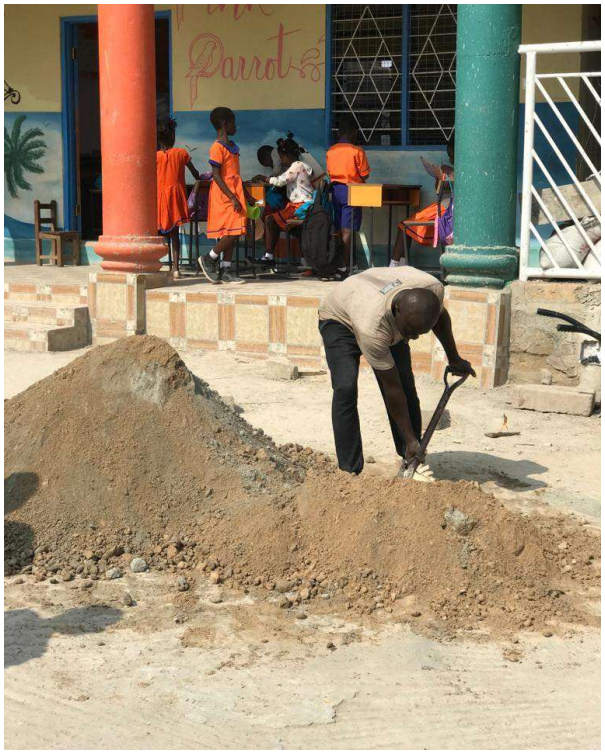
And an epic Sky Dive took place with our friends from Childrensalon!



In August, Brightlingsea Academy held its first whole school spelling competition and we started to build an additional five new classrooms!

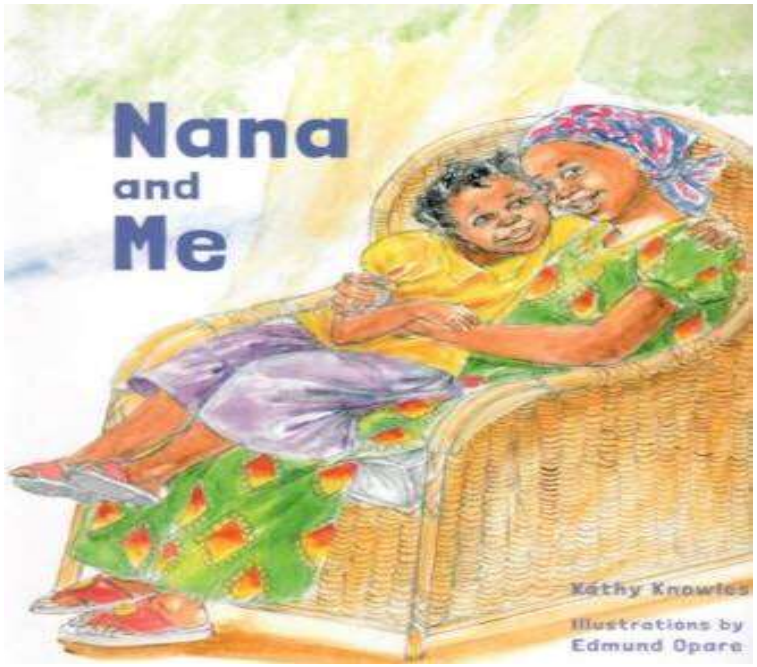
In September, we got the chance to take part in the Tunbridge Wells annual Boat Race to help raise funds.

And the new classrooms at Brightlingsea Academy really started to take shape.

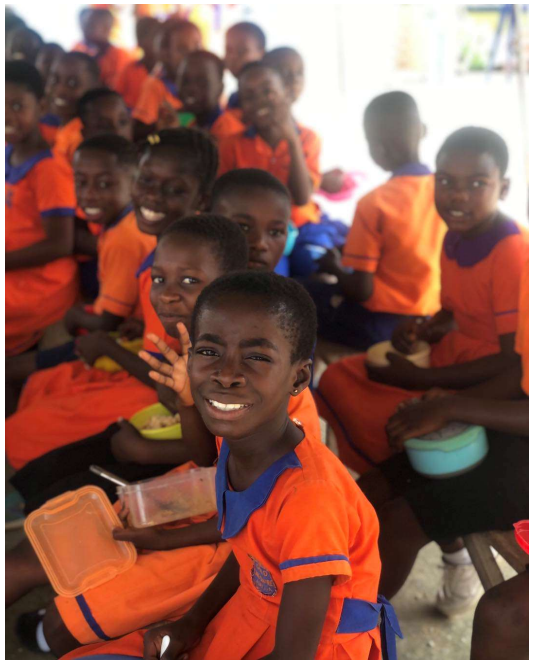


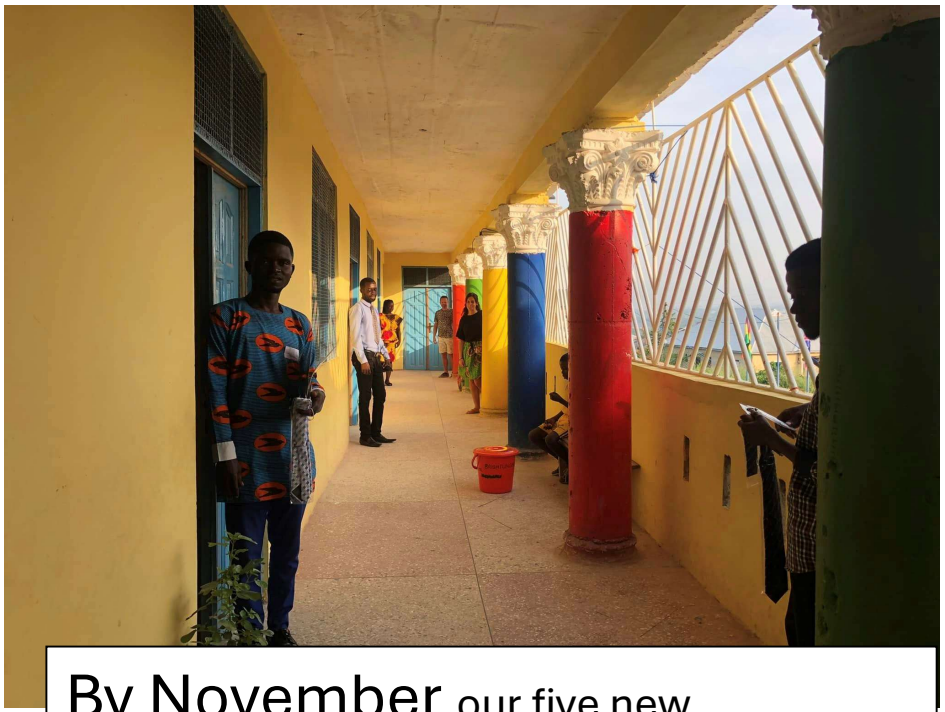
In October, Lizzie, one of our trustees, took on the London Marathon whilst our new classrooms got a lick of paint!

Also in October, our Founder and Chair of Trustees visited Ghana with our corporate donors, Childrensalon. As part of the trip, we raised funds to buy story books written and illustrated by African artists and writers.



The visitors from Childrensalon witnessed the huge impact of their monthly funds to Porridge and Pens. They support our feeding program, teacher salaries and Girl Power Project. Thank you to their unwavering support we can continue to grow.





By November our five new classrooms were completed, our Girl Power Team had two new resident dogs and some very challenging fundraising events were in full swing.

As the year ended, we cleared our very own plot of land to start building our first Girl Power Centre in 2023!

Reference and Administrative Information:

Porridge and Pens Ghana

Registered Charity Number: 1166497

Principal Address: Porridge and Pens Officer, 1 Chapman Close, Brightlingsea, Essex, CO7 0FS,

Trustees: G Weaver (Chair of Trustees), C Tibbs, J Meek, E Smith, P Tibbs, E Merrell (appointed 20th July 2022)

UK staff: L Smith and J Williams

Bankers: Barclays Bank, 9 High Street, Colchester, CO1 1DA

Accountants: Edmund Carr LLP, 146 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0AW

Charity Objectives and Activities

Porridge and Pens works with children and young adults in Ghana. We do this by providing access to free education, medicine, safe shelter, and school meals so young people can create their own bright and sustainable futures, free from poverty.

Strategic Plan 2022 - 2027

The impact we aim to achieve through our five-year strategy is reducing extreme poverty for very low-income families for the children and their families from our project communities. We retain a particular focus on working with families living within informal settlements. Our projects focus on three priority areas: equal access to education, free food at school, and safe shelter. As Porridge and Pens progresses and our income grows, we will remember our three common goals, food, education, and shelter.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when determining the charity's activities.

Our activities and achievements throughout the year are detailed in the first part of this report.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, AND MANAGEMENT

Porridge and Pens Ghana was registered as a charity (CIO) in 2016 and is governed by its Trust Deed.

How we work and our partners in Ghana

Since Porridge and Pens were established in 2016, the number of children and young people seeking support from one of our projects has increased by 70%. Most of this growth has been in the past two years. It is only possible because trustees have invested in our charity's organisational resources in the UK by employing two staff members. We have been able to focus our efforts on the operations with our partners in Ghana and fundraising from the UK to grow the work we do with our partners.

Brightlingsea Academy is a registered Private School in Ghana with the Ghanaian Education Service, and The Girl Power Foundation LBG is a separate NGO governed by Ghanaian charity laws. Porridge and Pens works in partnership with our allies in Ghana, supporting them in every way possible to achieve our charity's goals. The three organisations work together, in unity to fulfill the goals of Porridge and Pens. That is, to help provide food, education, and shelter to those most in need. We believe our partners in Ghana are experts in understanding their country, culture, and economy. Through shared learning experiences, years of trust, and friendship, our partnerships are strong and continuously developing. We are very grateful to the staff and directors we work with in Ghana.

Our board of trustees continue to make an invaluable contribution to the day-to-day management of our organisation. We have some very dedicated volunteers who offer their services to the organisation. Our trustees and staff continue to work hard together to ensure the smooth running of the organisation. Trustees are appointed by invitation from the existing Board of Trustees. A trustee will be appointed if there is a unanimous agreement of all existing trustees. New trustees will be given a copy of the Charity Commission's guidance for trustees, "The Essential Trustee" (CC3), and a copy of the latest accounts.

Risk Management

Potential risk to the charity is considered and discussed by the trustees at the start of every year, and they are regularly updated on any project risks by the CEO. We use our risk management policy and seek guidance from the necessary bodies to ensure compliance and limit risk to the organisation, staff, trustees, and beneficiaries.

Sending money to Ghana

Porridge and Pens transfer funds to Ghana in two ways. Sendwave allows recipients to receive the funds instantly using their mobile money account. This is a widespread, safe, and accepted way of collecting money in Ghana. We currently use Sendwave as it has very low transaction fees and has always been reliable and fast. We send money this way when there is an unexpected cost, or a project needs the funds urgently. Once money is sent from the UK Porridge and Pens account it is with the recipient in minutes. This is one of the ways we rely on getting funds for our projects. The second way is via Wise (formerly TransferWise). It is cheaper to send funds using Wise than through our bank, Barclays. It can from two hours to two days to send money in this way and may take another day to clear the bank account in Ghana so we plan ahead to send funds in this way. However, we can send larger amounts, in this way, straight to an official bank account.

Financial Review

The accounts show income in the year of £283,453 (2021: £133,147). Expenditure totalled £265,098 (2021: £133,064), with over £220,000 of grants and support for the Brightlingsea and Girl Power projects. Total funds of the Charity at 31 December 2022 were £114,037 of which £11,300 were restricted, £35,000 designated to the Girl Power Project (for the purchase of a new minibus and towards the cost of the building work) and £67,737 unrestricted.

Reserves policy

Porridge and Pens aims to hold general unrestricted reserves of at least £47,300. This amount is reviewed regularly by our trustees and will provide our partners in Ghana with enough funding to continue the work for three months, should no other resources be available.

Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The annual report was approved by the Trustees of the charity on 13 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Gregg Weaver

G Weaver – Chair of Trustees

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

Registered Charity Number 1166497

EDMUND CARR LLP
Chartered Accountants
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 2 to 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Colin Barker

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Colin Barker FCA

Edmund Carr LLP
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
CM2 0AW

13 September 2023

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
INCOME from:					
Donations and legacies:	**2**	135,691	122,956	258,647	133,075
Fundraising	**3**	23,739	-	23,739	-
Other income		1,067	-	1,067	72
TOTAL INCOME		160,497	122,956	283,453	133,147
EXPENDITURE on:					
Raising funds		2,221	-	2,221	1,896
Charitable activities	**4**	128,501	134,376	262,877	131,168
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		130,722	134,376	265,098	133,064
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)/ NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		29,775	(11,420)	18,355	83
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		72,962	22,720	95,682	95,599
Total funds carried forward		102,737	11,300	114,037	95,682

The notes on pages 4 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

BALANCE SHEET

At 31st December 2022

	Note	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets	**8**				
Tangible assets			1,290		700
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	**9**	22,318		505	
Cash at bank		92,429		95,677	
		114,747		96,182	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	**10**	2,000		1,200	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			112,747		94,982
NET ASSETS			114,037		95,682
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	**12**				
Unrestricted - general		67,737		62,962	
Unrestricted - designated		35,000		10,000	
Total unrestricted			102,737		72,962
Restricted			11,300		22,720
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			114,037		95,682

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 13 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Gregg Weaver

….....

G Weaver

Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 4 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting
The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Porridge & Pens is an unincorporated registered charity and meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming Resources
Donations are recognised when receivable.

Resources Expended
All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes VAT as the charity is not VAT registered. The majority of costs are attributable to specific charitable activities. Governance costs are associated with the governance arrangements of the charity.

Debtors and creditors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Creditors are recognised at their settlement amount.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity.

Taxation

As the Association is a charity, it is exempt from taxation - other than VAT, which is included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities - to the extent that any income and gains are applied to its charitable objectives.

2. DONATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Donations	99,447	37,141	136,588	72,885
Gift aid	26,194	-	26,194	8,790
Grants	10,050	85,815	95,865	51,400
	135,691	122,956	258,647	133,075

3. INCOME FROM RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Sales	2,813	-	2,813	-
Fundraising	20,926	-	20,926	-
	23,739	-	23,739	-

4. CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Girl power projects	43,360	87,619	130,979	27,634
Brightlingsea Academy projects	38,009	46,757	84,766	76,521
Other direct costs	5,090	-	5,090	-
	86,459	134,376	220,835	104,155
Support and administration costs:				
Depreciation	507	-	507	233
Postage, Freight & Courier	1,513	-	1,513	84
Insurance	439	-	439	434
Printing & Stationery	687	-	687	191
IT Software and Consumables	1,030	-	1,030	422
Salaries	31,632	-	31,632	22,330
Pensions Costs	959	-	959	830
General Expenses	-	-	-	32
Travel	904	-	904	-
Governance costs (note 5)	4,371	-	4,371	2,457
Total support costs	42,042	-	42,042	27,013
Total cost of charitable expenditure	128,501	134,376	262,877	131,168

5. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£
Fees payable to independent examiner: accounts and examination	2,096	1,521
Fees payable to independent examiner: other services	768	936
Bank Fees	5	-
Trustee Expenses	1,502	-
	4,371	2,457

6. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS

Total staff costs were as follows:	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages & salaries	31,632	22,330
Employer pension contributions	959	830
	32,591	23,160

Particulars of employees:

The average number of employees during the year was:	2	2

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the period.

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

No remuneration was paid to Trustees in the year (2021 - Nil)

Travel and subsistence expenses totalling £1,502 were paid on behalf of Trustees in the year (2021 - Nil)

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2022	933	933
Additions	1,097	1,097
At 31st December 2022	2,030	2,030
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2022	233	233
Charge for year	507	507
At 31st December 2022	740	740
Net book value		
At 31st December 2022	1,290	1,290
At 31st December 2021	700	700

9. DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Gift aid recoverable	22,318	505

10. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

Accruals	2,000	1,200
Other creditors	-	-
	2,000	1,200

11. RELATED PARTIES TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year.

12. FUNDS

		Balance at 01/01/2022 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfer	Balance at 31/12/2022 £
	Unrestricted funds					
	General	62,962	160,497	(120,722)	(35,000)	67,737
1)	Designated	10,000	-	(10,000)	35,000	35,000
		72,962	160,497	(130,722)	-	102,737
	Restricted funds					
2)	Girl Power	20,250	74,069	(87,619)	-	6,700
3)	Brightlingsea Academy	2,470	48,887	(46,757)	-	4,600
		22,720	122,956	(134,376)	-	11,300

1) The Trustees designated £10,000 in 2021 which was used for our Girl Power Project development. A further £35,000 has been designated from unrestricted funds this year: £15,000 for a Girl Power minibus and £20,000 towards the cost of our Girl Power building work.

2) Girl Power Supporting girls and young women from informal settlements and low-income families with free education at good schools with strong headteachers. We aim to make a difference to girls who are at risk of not completing their education, those at risk of child labour, abuse or homelessness.

3) The Brightlingsea Acadamy is a small school for 340 children. It is a school free of corporal punishment. Children from remote communites and surrounding villages can complete their primary school education and received two complimentary meals daily. Students' parents are able to find employment opportunities while their children attend school.

13. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS (between restricted and unrestricted funds)

	Tangible fixed assets £	Other net assets £	Total £
Restricted	-	11,300	11,300
Designated	-	35,000	35,000
Unrestricted	1,290	66,447	67,737
	1,290	112,747	114,037

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

Registered Charity Number 1166497

EDMUND CARR LLP
Chartered Accountants
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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Statement of financial activities	**2**
Balance sheet	**3**
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PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 2 to 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Colin Barker

.....

Colin Barker FCA

Edmund Carr LLP
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
CM2 0AW

13 September 2023

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
INCOME from:					
Donations and legacies:	**2**	135,691	122,956	258,647	133,075
Fundraising	**3**	23,739	-	23,739	-
Other income		1,067	-	1,067	72
TOTAL INCOME		160,497	122,956	283,453	133,147
EXPENDITURE on:					
Raising funds		2,221	-	2,221	1,896
Charitable activities	**4**	128,501	134,376	262,877	131,168
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		130,722	134,376	265,098	133,064
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)/ NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		29,775	(11,420)	18,355	83
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		72,962	22,720	95,682	95,599
Total funds carried forward		102,737	11,300	114,037	95,682

The notes on pages 4 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

BALANCE SHEET

At 31st December 2022

	Note	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets	**8**				
Tangible assets			1,290		700
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	**9**	22,318		505	
Cash at bank		92,429		95,677	
		114,747		96,182	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	**10**	2,000		1,200	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			112,747		94,982
NET ASSETS			114,037		95,682
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	**12**				
Unrestricted - general		67,737		62,962	
Unrestricted - designated		35,000		10,000	
Total unrestricted			102,737		72,962
Restricted			11,300		22,720
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			114,037		95,682

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 13 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Gregg Weaver

….....

G Weaver

Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 4 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting
The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Porridge & Pens is an unincorporated registered charity and meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming Resources
Donations are recognised when receivable.

Resources Expended
All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes VAT as the charity is not VAT registered. The majority of costs are attributable to specific charitable activities. Governance costs are associated with the governance arrangements of the charity.

Debtors and creditors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Creditors are recognised at their settlement amount.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity.

Taxation

As the Association is a charity, it is exempt from taxation - other than VAT, which is included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities - to the extent that any income and gains are applied to its charitable objectives.

2. DONATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Donations	99,447	37,141	136,588	72,885
Gift aid	26,194	-	26,194	8,790
Grants	10,050	85,815	95,865	51,400
	135,691	122,956	258,647	133,075

3. INCOME FROM RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Sales	2,813	-	2,813	-
Fundraising	20,926	-	20,926	-
	23,739	-	23,739	-

4. CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Girl power projects	43,360	87,619	130,979	27,634
Brightlingsea Academy projects	38,009	46,757	84,766	76,521
Other direct costs	5,090	-	5,090	-
	86,459	134,376	220,835	104,155
Support and administration costs:				
Depreciation	507	-	507	233
Postage, Freight & Courier	1,513	-	1,513	84
Insurance	439	-	439	434
Printing & Stationery	687	-	687	191
IT Software and Consumables	1,030	-	1,030	422
Salaries	31,632	-	31,632	22,330
Pensions Costs	959	-	959	830
General Expenses	-	-	-	32
Travel	904	-	904	-
Governance costs (note 5)	4,371	-	4,371	2,457
Total support costs	42,042	-	42,042	27,013
Total cost of charitable expenditure	128,501	134,376	262,877	131,168

5. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£
Fees payable to independent examiner: accounts and examination	2,096	1,521
Fees payable to independent examiner: other services	768	936
Bank Fees	5	-
Trustee Expenses	1,502	-
	4,371	2,457

6. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS

Total staff costs were as follows:	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages & salaries	31,632	22,330
Employer pension contributions	959	830
	32,591	23,160

Particulars of employees:

The average number of employees during the year was:	2	2

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the period.

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

No remuneration was paid to Trustees in the year (2021 - Nil)

Travel and subsistence expenses totalling £1,502 were paid on behalf of Trustees in the year (2021 - Nil)

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2022	933	933
Additions	1,097	1,097
At 31st December 2022	2,030	2,030
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2022	233	233
Charge for year	507	507
At 31st December 2022	740	740
Net book value		
At 31st December 2022	1,290	1,290
At 31st December 2021	700	700

9. DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Gift aid recoverable	22,318	505

10. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

Accruals	2,000	1,200
Other creditors	-	-
	2,000	1,200

11. RELATED PARTIES TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year.

12. FUNDS

		Balance at 01/01/2022 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfer	Balance at 31/12/2022 £
	Unrestricted funds					
	General	62,962	160,497	(120,722)	(35,000)	67,737
1)	Designated	10,000	-	(10,000)	35,000	35,000
		72,962	160,497	(130,722)	-	102,737
	Restricted funds					
2)	Girl Power	20,250	74,069	(87,619)	-	6,700
3)	Brightlingsea Academy	2,470	48,887	(46,757)	-	4,600
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PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

England & Wales - Charity number 1166497

Accounts

Welcome to

Porridge and Pens Ghana's

2021 Annual Trustee Report

A welcome from our Chair of Trustees – Gregg Weaver

Being Chair of Trustees for Porridge and Pens is an honour and a privilege. We may be a small charity made up of a handful of people, but the amount achieved especially over the last year has been astonishing. The Brightlingsea Academy is growing both in size and pupil numbers and the Girl Power project goes from strength to strength with new developments happening constantly. Both are having such an impact on so many young lives as well as on their families and local community. None of this would be possible without a handful of extremely dedicated and hardworking people who spend their free time doing everything they can to help others.

The pandemic has had a huge effect on all of us and has limited our fundraising opportunities greatly, requiring alternative methods of income to continue to run our vital projects. Although at times we have struggled, we try to use the people that we work with in Ghana as our inspiration. Although they have so little and struggle daily with things that we fully take for granted, they are so grateful for what they have and don't dwell on their misfortunes but focus on the positive aspects of their primitive lives. Despite having extensive future plans and hopes for Porridge and Pens, we also regularly reflect on everything we have already achieved and are so very proud and grateful to all those who support us and continue to make our dreams for our charity, a reality.

The future for Porridge and Pens is looking bright and we are confident that we can continue to build on the success of the last few years and help change the lives of even more people. Another development this year is the introduction of Porridge and Pens to the large independent school where I work as a teacher. Not only have we taken on Porridge and Pens as our main charity to support through a range of fundraising events but have also used it as a gateway to learn about other cultures and lifestyles and look forward to strengthening the relationship between my school and The Brightlingsea Academy which will hopefully benefit students at both establishments through gaining a mutual respect and understanding of each other.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who continue to work so hard for Porridge and Pens but especially to the small team of people who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure our charity is as successful as it can be including my fellow trustees, project manager, founder and all the staff in Ghana who we work so closely with.

Gregg Weaver

Chair of Trustees

A message from Jemma Williams – Our Founder

In 2021 we started to see some amazing progress affecting our beneficiaries and the local communities.

Over 75% of children's mothers from the Brightlingsea Academy have found employment. In 2016 we measured this at around 30%. We are starting to have a positive effect not only on the school children but the wider community too. For me, this is a clear, sustainable, and important step forward.

Although there is rapid improvement going on across our two projects, children still face many, everyday barriers and distresses at home. When children come to the Brightlingsea Academy or The Girl Power Centre, they are safe, incredibly cheerful, fulfilled, engaged and looked after, but when they go home their troubles resume. Electric, clean running water and toilets are not common amenities for the children. Still, most of our families live on less than £2 a day. The average primary school place is £180 a year.

Most of the families cannot afford to pay for rent. In fact, 63% of families are squatters in uncompleted buildings around the village. To put this into perspective, many people take up to 10 years to build a home in Ghana and until the house is completed the owners do not live in them - perhaps rather obviously! The houses will often be without windows, doors, roofs and only resemble the shell of a home for many, many years or until the owner has funds to complete the building. Until the owner can afford to complete the construction of their house, they allow squatters in, otherwise known as 'Caretakers' to look after their houses. 63% of our children at the Brightlingsea Academy live in uncompleted buildings and are 'caretakers', or squatters to you and me.

Our two projects (Girl Power and Brightlingsea Academy) will provide a pathway for hundreds of children to walk through. This path will lead them to a far better life than their mothers and fathers, we are sure of that. Before they reap the rewards of a better life, they must ride out their own individual storms each day. This must sometimes feel like a very long, difficult, and unpredictable path to be walking upon.

I want to say thank you so very much all our volunteers, staff, donors, and our wonderful group of trustees. Over the course of 2021 we have emerged out of the rocky waters of a global Pandemic. Our projects are back on track, and we hope never to close our doors again. I'm so pleased we managed to come out the other end not just in one piece but better and stronger than before.

I also want to thank our regular donors for continuing to support us each month. These funds pay for the bulk of our core project costs and without this money we couldn't operate. Our corporate donors, Childrensalon, have also been there for Porridge and Pens, helping us remain secure during the Pandemic and now supporting our development as we go forward. Thanks to their fundraising and commitment to our aims, we have been able to do things we hoped for, sooner than we thought. I hope our trustee report gives you an insight into some of these achievements.

J.Williams

How the idea behind Porridge and Pens started:

Our founder, Jemma, started Porridge and Pens Ghana from her bedroom in Brightlingsea, Essex after finishing school. Whilst spending a year in 2009 in Ghana living and teaching, she met an orphan girl called Mabel and the experience changed her life. Mabel was a 14-year-old girl who was desperately unhappy and trapped working in a form of modern-day slavery as a 'house girl', suffering from daily abuse. Because Mabel wasn't paid for her work she couldn't afford to go to school, as schools are not free in Ghana. Gender inequality is also prevalent in Kumasi and the areas in Ghana that we now work, so girls get left behind too easily, often tasked with the chores of the house. Once Jemma became a teacher in Southend and earnt money of her own, she supported Mabel through her education back in Ghana. A little money went a long way. Mabel now, is head chef for an international tour company. Before she was given an opportunity to start school, Mabel was incredibly unhappy. She had nothing to live for. That has changed now – that is the power of education!

Porridge and Pens today:

We believe every child in Ghana should have a chance to achieve happiness and financial security in their later life. This all starts with access to quality education. Our work is delivered through two long standing projects; Girl Power and The Brightlingsea Academy, which make measurable differences to over 300 lives each day. Porridge and Pens works with some of the most disadvantaged children and young adults in Ghana. We do this by providing access to free education, safe shelter and school meals so young people can create their own bright and sustainable futures, free from poverty.

300 children and young adults

- The Brightlingsea Academy Project
- The Girl Power Project

- A place at school
- 2 meals a day
- Safe shelter

A Snapshot of our 2021 achievements

The Brightlingsea Academy 2021

Greetings from the Brightlingsea Academy Ghana

A free school for children from the remote and bush area of The Assenua Village

Over the past six years we have worked hard to make lots of achievements. Here is what we are most proud of:

A safe space for 230 children aged 0-14

12 classrooms

6 toilets

3 cooks to help serve over 100,000 meals a year!

23 staff in total

Clean, free running water for the school and village to use

13 computers and a rich I.C.T curriculum

Timeline of The Brightlingsea Academy 2016 - 2021

Our school in 2016 with four classrooms

2016 building work – four new classrooms

Eight classrooms and a small library were completed in early 2017

In 2019/2020 we started building four new classrooms to the right of the main school building. They were completed in 2021

Our four new primary school classrooms were completed in 2021 and are being used by 120 children.

Monitoring and Impact - 2021

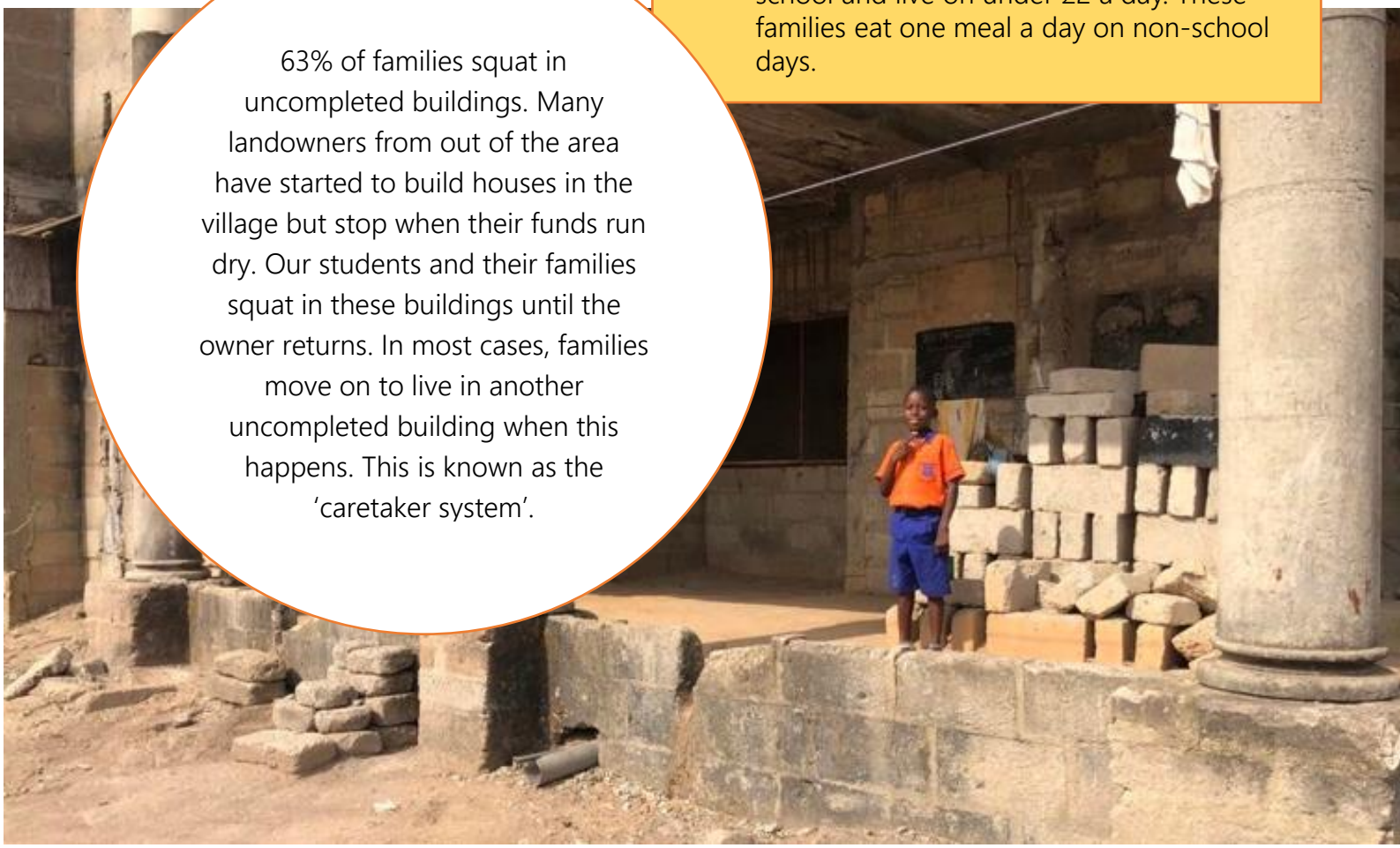
In 2016 we measured the employment rate of mothers to be less than 30%. With the development of the school and our free childcare we are taking steps to eradicate poverty within the school village.

- 73% of mothers are now working
- 94% of fathers are now working
- 100% of children don't feel hungry during the school day – 80% of children from government schools do.

We know this about the children from our school:

- 50% of children still do not have access to any toilet facilities at home
- 50% of children do not have access to any clean water at home
- 63% of families squat in uncompleted buildings
- 50 of our students are still engaged with childhood labour activities before and after school and during the weekends. These children are from the poorest families at the school and live on under £2 a day. These families eat one meal a day on non-school days.

63% of families squat in uncompleted buildings. Many landowners from out of the area have started to build houses in the village but stop when their funds run dry. Our students and their families squat in these buildings until the owner returns. In most cases, families move on to live in another uncompleted building when this happens. This is known as the 'caretaker system'.



The nearest school is a long walk away…

The nearest government school is over two hours walk for some of our students. We took the long walk there from Brightlingsea Academy. To access the school our pupils would need to cross six lanes of fast-moving traffic.

Upon meeting the Headteacher, we learnt these things about the school:

- There is no access to running water
- 80% of children eat nothing during the school day because school lunch is too expensive for their family income
- Children need to buy their own chairs and desks and are expected to stand if they can't afford these
- 1/70 children have the textbooks they need as they must purchase these themselves
- There are no toilet facilities
- There is no way to dispose of any waste and so fires are constantly burning to dispose of rubbish. This creates dangerous and unpleasant fumes
- The cane is used as a frequent and normal form of punishment

This continues to show us The Brightlingsea Academy remains a lifeline of education and support for the children. In the future we have hopes to build a Junior High School so our students can continue onto the next stage of their education with Porridge and Pens at The Brightlingsea Academy.

Free feeding scheme - 2021

With 73% of mothers able to work we have recorded 40% of parents giving back to our school feeding scheme each day. These small donations mean we can increase the size of portions and the protein too.

A Case Study – Moses, Age 14

Moses is one of the children at Brightlingsea Academy. He's 14 years old and officially too old to attend the Brightlingsea Academy. His mother was also our school cook at the Academy for three years. Devastatingly, she passed away in childbirth. She leaves Moses, and his younger siblings (who also attend the Brightlingsea Academy). They are like most of our families from the school's village and squat in a small uncompleted building. Without the Brightlingsea Academy he would not be going to school.

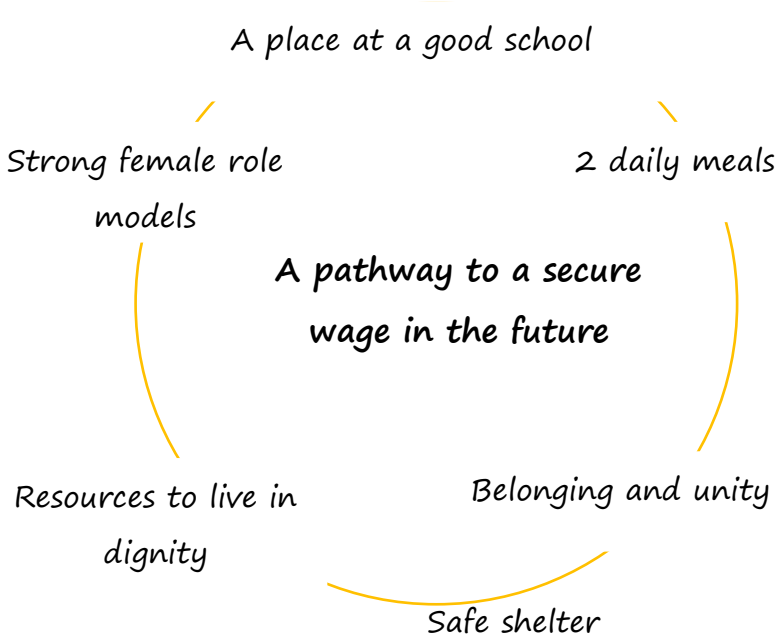
"The Brightlingsea Academy is my one joy. My problems at home are uncountable but at school I can eat and I can learn. I can be myself. I can be happy. Thank you for making the Brightlingsea Academy a safe place for me. I truly love it with all my heart." – Moses – 14, with his teacher Bernice.

Girl Power 2021

Greetings from The Girl Power Project - Kumasi

Girl Power - A pathway to higher education for street affiliated girls

We work with girls from age 5-27 and get them to school. We take away their financial barriers and support their welfare so they can complete their education.



Girl Power is about keeping girls in school so they can finish their education to a level that allows them to gain a career and be financially independent in their future

Primary School

5-11

Junior High School (JHS)

11-15

Senior High School (SHS)

15-18

Higher Education

Once girls reach this level of education, they are more likely to secure a stable wage.

Each year at school increases a girl's future wage by 10-20%.

If a girl can complete her higher education in Ghana the world can become their oyster…

- An average wage of £277 per month
- Fewer children
- Marry later in life
- Thrive

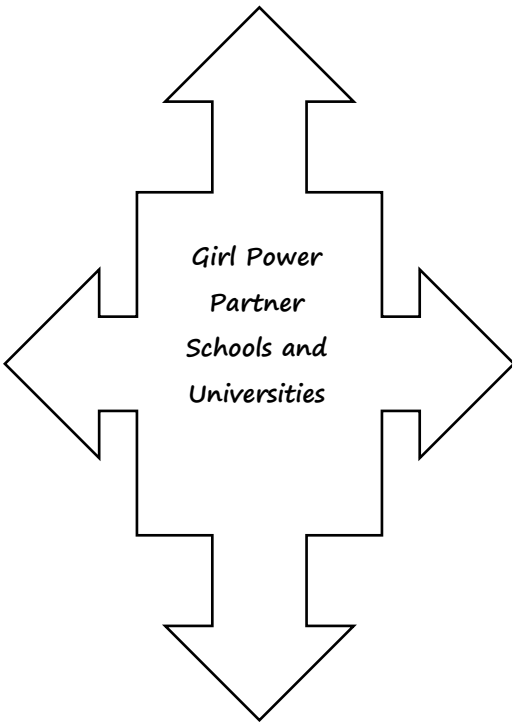
But, its not as simple as it sounds and only 13% of girls in Ghana continue onto higher education (Including college, university or teacher training institutions).

- The average wage is £55 per month
- The cost of living suggests the average person needs £240 a month to fulfil their basic living essentials
- Higher chance of early marriage and low skilled working positions
- The generational cycle of deprivation continues

Girl Power Partner Schools

Our staff work carefully and closely with teaching staff across our 21 Girl Power partner schools to track progress. They identify equipment and resources our Girl Power students need to help break down any financial barriers to their education.

All the girls have frequent checks from our Girl Power staff at our partner schools to check on their school welfare and progress



Free feeding for our Girl Power students at our partner schools

We work with several schools who have strong female leaders

Two meals a day

Eating one meal at school each day costs around 4 Ghana Cedi or £0.35 pence. For girls from the poorest backgrounds, this is unaffordable and means girls are more likely to get involved in child labour activities. We knock this barrier down by providing two meals at our partner schools everyday.

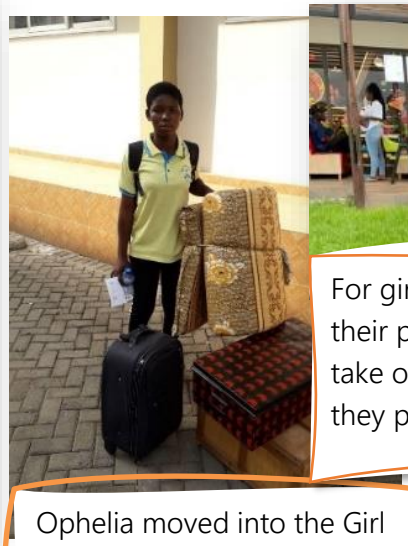
At a recent monitoring and evaluation session we learnt that, before joining Girl Power, 80% of students who had previously attended school hadn't eat anything all day. This was one a major reason for their previous school dropouts. Since joining Girl Power, 100% of girls feel less hungry in the daytime now – with increased levels of happiness and concentration.

"its hard to concentrate on learning and listening when your stomach continiously rumbles." – Erica

Safe shelter

20,000 street children live in Kumasi. Our Girl Power Centre offers safe shelter to girls who do not have a safe space to live.

Our staff met Ophelia three years ago. An orphan street girl living under a plastic sheet. She was selling smoked fish and earning roughly £0.90 pence a day.



Ophelia moved into the Girl Power Centre, and we registered her at senior high school.

For girls like Ophelia the Girl Power Centre is their permanent home and our centre staff take on the role of their guardians. Although they prefer to be known as Big Sisters!

The Girl Power Centre is:

- A permanent home to Girl Power street girls like Ophelia
- A sanctuary for lots of the girls during the weekends
- A safe and nurturing space with our centre staff
- Weekend feeding when our partner schools are closed
- Washing facilities
- A brilliant library and I.C.T room where girls can use computers for the first time.
- Extra classes in life skills and support for homework/summer studies
- A place where the girls can relax and have fun

"I have shelter now" – Ophelia

95% of our Girl Power students live with their relatives or friends. Their living situations are not always reliable or constant. The Girl Power Centre is there for any of the girls who need a temporary or permanent place to live. For many of the girls, their home environments are tough and stressful. The Girl Power Centre offers reprieve from distressing and uncomfortable everyday living conditions to all our students each weekend. They receive classes in life skills, support with homework and the opportunity to use computers, something they do not have in schools or at home.

Most girls live in one room with up to 13 of their family members

82% of our girls wash in public loos because they have no toilet or running water at home

Most of our girls don't have their own bed, they share with up to five siblings

Rooms are rented in uncompleted compound buildings, normally with no access to washing facilities

Girl Power students with disabilities

0.3% of girls with a disability attend higher education in Ghana.

The wage for a female with a disability in Ghana without an education can be as low as £1 a day. A single room in a compound house costs at least £7 a month, this leaves very little left over.

Girl Power works to get girls with disabilities through school and into higher education.

20% of girls with disabilities are not in primary school in Ghana.

Miriam

Miriam is one of our talented Girl Power students. She wants to be a seamstress and wins lots of awards at her creative schoolwork. Miriam is in a lot of pain constantly because of her disability which means she struggles to walk some days. Through careful interventions we work hard to keep girls like Miriam in school. Miriam deserves the opportunity to become a seamstress in her future and we will absolutely help her get there with the power of higher education.

Medical support

Help getting to school safely

Additional resources for girls with disabilities to work from home when unwell. E.g – Provision of sewing machines.

What our Girl Power staff say...

"The Girl Power project has one of the most remarkable objectives in Ghana. That is to ensure the bright future of young girls through education, feeding and safe shelter. Girl Power, through its plans and policies have over 100 girls in school. They have access to free food and water, books, and other learning materials which they would otherwise not have gotten from their family. Girls who have lost their parents and do not have any safe shelter live under our safe shelter at the centre to get a peaceful atmosphere for their education and growth. Girl Power has passionate and affectionate caregivers who take care of the girls and manage daily activities at the centre. I'm so proud to be part of this".

Gloria - Assistant Manager – Girl Power

"During my visit to the Girl Power Centre this year I heard one word repeatedly used to describe the Girl Power Project and that was 'family'. I knew the girls called Claudia, 'Big Sis' and I knew the girls that stay at the centre think of it as home, but I hadn't realised quite the impact the centre makes to all the girls who are able to visit. They describe it as a 'refuge', a 'safe space', 'fun' and a place to meet their friends in similar situations to them but the staff of Claudia, Kofi and Gloria are what make them feel like it's one big family. One of the students said, 'Family is the perfect description, families look out for each other, care for each other, protect each other and help build each other up."

The Girl Power Centre is more than a place to visit. It's a refuge from troubles, it's a place to meet friends and it's a place to receive care, love, support, and encouragement".

Lia – UK Project Manager – Girl Power

"For me, as the Centre Manager, I get to be the one that emotionally holds the entire program together. So, for the girls, their highs are my highs, and their lows are my lows. It has been a journey and these girls, for me, are my family. Because, for some of our girls, I feel like I'm literally their mother. I'm the legal guardian for some of them and to see them come out with such good results is a lot for me. I'm thankful and I'm grateful for that. So, for me girl power is not just provision of food, shelter, and safety it is beyond that. I don't know how to put it, but it is a life saver and a dream come true for these girls. They never thought they would get such an opportunity and for me, it's a nurturing ground. It's family. I get to see the girl's bond; the togetherness and friendship build each day. It gives me a sense of responsibility and joy at the same time. I'm happy that, aside from my very immediate family, I have another family with these girls, younger sisters. For me, Girl Power is home".

Claudia – Centre Manager – Girl Power

A Case Study – Blessing

By Claudia – Girl Power Centre Manager

Blessing is an orphan, so unfortunately, she's lost both parents. Her mother and father are dead and it is believed that they were cursed by somebody. This is a very normal belief here in Ghana. I met her when she was just loitering around, selling on the streets. Then we put her through Girl Power and got her back into school. Shortly after we lost her mother who had a small provision shop. Before her father died, he built them a small house which remains uncompleted. In front of the building her mother was selling things and she would use this money to get her daughter, Blessing, through school. She didn't make much from the shop and Girl Power gave her some funds to help her buy some more stock and better the business. It didn't yield as she got very sick. After Blessing's mother passed away her grandmother moved in who has also recently died. She is now in the house with her Aunty.

For Blessing, if it wasn't for the Girl Power's intervention she would be on the streets. I do not know what would have happened to her. She is now doing very well; she is a very smart girl. She loves the Girl Power Centre a lot. She stays at the Girl Power centre every weekend and attends school in the week. Considering the number of problems that has happened to her, she is strong. She has kept it together and she knows how to handle her emotions. She is strong willed and that has worked a lot for her. Coming to the Girl Power Centre is a relief for her. She meets with her friends who are in similar positions to her, and she can talk to them. Right now, she is in Junior High School, and she is studying very hard. Blessing is one of our smartest girls. For her, we are very hopefully she will get great results and praying there will be no more casualties in her family. Girl Power has been a home for her, a solace and we will continue to provide that comfort for her.

A case study – Abigail (studying for her degree in education)

By Jemma and Lia – Girl Power UK staff

Abigail was working on the streets selling second handbags with her mother. Between them, they would earn £45 a month. Abigail's father had a stroke and was too unwell to work and so money was tight. Their money was spent on providing things for her younger brother and sister. Abigail managed to complete Senior High School with good grades, before her father became sick, and hoped to one day become a teacher. Abigail gave up school after Senior High and was out of education for years because she couldn't afford to pay the university fees for teacher training. While selling bags with her mother she earnt so little, Porridge and Pens worked out it would have taken her 20 years to afford her first year at university.

Abigail has been enrolled at university to study Geography and after this, she will complete a one-year teacher training program with Porridge and Pens. She is well on track to become a secondary school Geography and Humanities teacher.

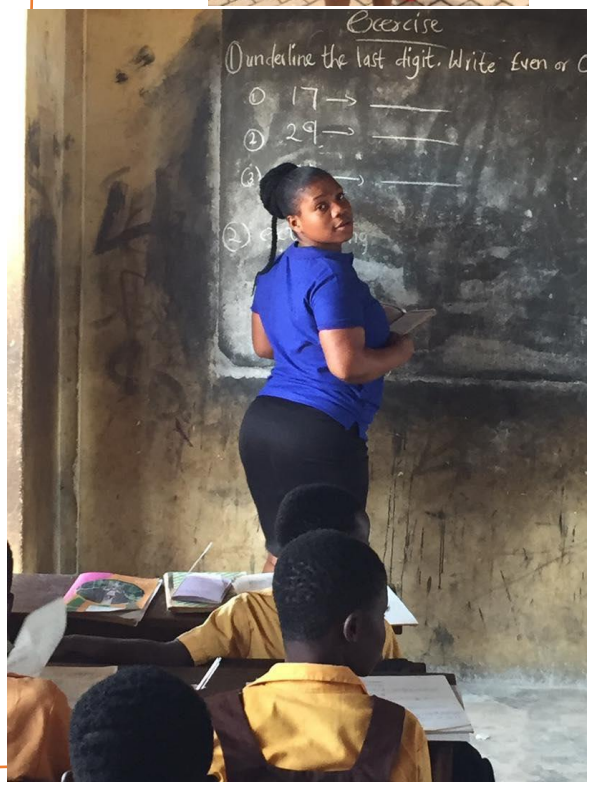
A case study – Bernice (studying to become a teacher) – In her words

"Through Girl Power I'm now pursuing my dreams of becoming a teacher with a degree qualification. In this regard, with my values, interests, and plans which I have possessed at an early stage in my life through my family, and the opportunities given to me through the Girl Power project I know I will be a fantastic teacher and inspire others like me in the future".

A case study – Angela (studying to become a teacher) – In her words

"I do not want my dreams to just waste away. I have always had the passion to help my classmates with things they do not understand when they are taught. Growing up has not been easy but I still hold on to my dreams of teaching. During my vacations I used to visit a school near where I stay to help the teachers teach the children and also mark the scripts for the teachers. I want to be able to complete the training school and get a good teaching job to be able to give back to society and take care of my mother.

I intend to make myself, the Girl Power Centre and my family proud of me".



A Case Study – Hannah (studying to be a nurse)

By Claudia and Jemma – Girl Power the UK and Ghanian team

Hannah is 19 and came to us with her sister Abigail who is 22. They came to the Girl Power Centre in need of help. Abigail needs a kidney transplant and without it only has a life prognosis of two years. Every penny of Hannah and Abigail's mothers' money is spent on hospital treatment for Abigail and the pot was dry for education funds. They squat in an uncompleted house without any access to toilet or washing facilities.

Hannah was desperate to return to school. Her dreams were to become a nurse. She felt terrible for wanting to pursue her own dreams when her sister was, and remains, so sick.

Hannah had excellent school results and wanted to go to university. She is really an excellent student but her education stopped after secondary school. Before Girl Power, she would wait and hope that she would one day get the money for school, but it never happened. Her sister's health was always the first priority for the family's very limited finances.

Hannah is an anxious person and worries about her sister. She was also worried of the burden she would put on her mother financially if she went to university, so she stayed at home without an opportunity to further her studies.

Through Girl Power, she is now in university and learning. We are very hopeful that she will do well. She doesn't feel that burden now she is able to reside at university too.

If she had waited any longer, she would have wasted her previous exam results since it's been so long since she finished school, her exam results would have been worthless. We are thankful we have put her back in school and we are sure she will complete this with flying colours. This will be a huge fulfilment, for all of us, when she becomes a nurse.

A Case Study – Erica (studying for her degree)

In her own words

Erica is 20 years of age and is studying at university as part of the Girl Power project. Erica is confident, self-assured, and passionate. When I first met Erica, I thought she was a new member of Girl Power staff. I then learnt she was one of our newest Girl Power students. She lives with her mum and two siblings; one is 8 and the other is 10. They live in one small room.

"We have a light, and a communal tap. We wash in a bucket outside and use the public toilet when we can afford to".

"Girl Power has made schooling so easy for me. I wanted to go to school to the highest level and Girl Power is a saviour for me. Without Girl Power I would have not gone to university. No, no. It is a big no".

What girls say before starting Girl Power:

- 'Before Girl Power I would stay at home because I didn't have the things I needed.'
- 'I was being beaten with canes because I didn't have specific books, class fees and practical fees.'
- 'Each of our uniforms cost about 70 GHC and there are up to four to buy. When you don't have it you get beaten.'
- 'I could not pay for school fees, books, uniforms, shoes and bags.'
- 'I had so little money for school I felt constantly very sad and ate food from my friends.'

What they say now:

- 'I have an education, less hunger and good shelter now.'
- 'Girl Power is my supportive family; it is perfect to me. A lifesaving project which has given me a new world. It's my joy.'
- 'Girl Power is my family'
- 'I have a life now that I have joined Girl Power, I was nothing before. That is sad for me to admit, my life felt worthless.'

Our future plans...

Provide additional spaces to girls who want to go to school

Help girls access better toilet facilities at school

We would like to fund a Girl Power minibus (tro tro) to get students to and from the centre in the evenings and the weekends, safely.

Offer more Girl Power spaces to girls with disabilities

Provide sanitary products each month

Reference and Administrative Information:

Porridge and Pens Ghana

Registered Charity Number: 1166497

Principal Address: Porridge and Pens Officer, 1 Chapman Close, Brightlingsea, Essex, CO70FS

Trustees: G Weaver (Chair of Trustees), C Tibbs, J Meek, E Smith (appointed 1 May 2021), P Tibbs (appointed 1 May 2021)

UK staff: L Smith and J Williams

Bankers: Barclays Bank, 9 High Street, Colchester, CO1 1DA Accountants: Edmund Carr LLP, 146 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0AW

Charity Objectives (as stated in the constitution)

“To relieve poverty of orphaned, abandoned and vulnerable children, young adults and families, by provision of such grants and donations as shall be thought fit to orphanages, schools, individuals and families in Kumasi, Ghana, to improve their conditions of life”

Strategic plan 2016 - 2021

The impact we aim to achieve through our five-year strategy is a reduction in extreme poverty, gender inequality and injustice in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. Our projects focus on the following three priority areas: Girls Education, Equality and Safety – Girls and young women are equal and respected members of society who are safe at home, in school and in their community. Food security: Children have improved food security with access to two free school meals each day Early childhood and primary education – Children from rural Kumasi in the Ashanti region of Ghana have access to good, free early childhood education. The trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit when determining the activities of the charity.

With the effects of Covid-19 still working its way through Ghana and causing vulnerabilities within society and the communities we work in, we need to focus on rebuilding and strengthening our projects to ensure we can continue to keep children and their families healthy and safe and this shall be our focus over 2021 and 2022.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

How we work

Because our resources are so limited, we work hard to make sure our structure and management enables us to always benefit the poorest young people in Ghana. Since Porridge and Pens was established in 2016, the number of beneficiaries seeking support from one of our projects in Ghana has increased by 67%. Most of this growth has been in the past two years and only possible because trustees have invested in our charity's organisational capacity in the UK by employing two members of staff. In 2020 the Chief Executive Officer was joined by a UK Project Manager to support the charity's efforts in Ghana. Investment in our organisational capacity has continued to support the management of charity and projects and contributed to our stable income and expenditure.

We appointed two new trustees in 2021, DR Philip Tibbs and Edmund Smith. We feel both new trustees have a wealth of experience in the medical, educational and international development sectors and can support our team of trustees.

Edmund and Philip Tibbs were appointed on 08/05/2021

Our entire board of trustees and key volunteers continue to make an invaluable contribution to day-to-day management of our organisation. We have some very dedicated volunteers who offer their services to the organisation on a part time, voluntary basis. Our trustees and staff continue to work hard to ensure the smooth running of the organisation. Trustees are appointed by invitation from the existing board of Trustees. A Trustee will be appointed if there is a unanimous agreement of all existing Trustees. New Trustees will be given a copy of the Charity Commission's guidance for Trustees "The Essential Trustee" (CC3) and a copy of latest accounts.

Risk Management

Potential risk to the charity is considered and discussed by the trustees at the start of every year and regularly kept updated on any project risks by the CEO. We use our risk management policy and seek guidance from the necessary bodies to ensure compliance and limit risk to the organisation, staff, trustee and beneficiaries.

Sending money to Ghana

Porridge and Pens transfers funds to Ghana in two ways. SendWave allows the recipient to receive the funds instantly by using their mobile money account. This is a very common, safe and accepted way of collecting money in Ghana. We currently use SendWave as it has very low transaction fees and has always been reliable and fast. We send money this way when there is an unexpected cost or a project needs the funds urgently and unexpectedly, in some cases. As soon as the money is sent from the UK Porridge and Pens account it is with the recipient in a matter of minutes. This is one of the ways we rely on getting funds for our projects. The second way is via Transferwise. It is cheaper to send funds using Transferwise than through our bank, Barclays. It can take a lot longer to send funds this way, however the exchange rate is usually a little better on this platform. We try to send larger amounts of money using Transferwise so we benefit from a higher exchange rate. We plan to use this platform as sometimes funds can take up to a week to arrive in Ghana.

Partners in Ghana

Porridge and Pens works carefully with selected partners to fulfil the aims of our projects. Both The Brightlingsea Academy and The Girl Power Project are well established and have been operating since 2016. The Brightlingsea Academy is a registered school with the Ghanaian Education Authority and was established by Jemma Williams and Ben Antwi in 2016 as the Co-Founders. Porridge and Pens continues to support the school with grants and is a major stakeholder within the ventures and activities of the school. Porridge and Pens second major project Is the Girl Power Project. This was established in 2016 and is a registered NGO in Ghana. The Porridge and Pens management team are also the management team for the Girl Power NGO in Ghana.

We work with many other Ghanaian organisations as part of our Girl Power Project. We frequently take referrals from orphanages and schools who are registered and established in Ghana.

Financial Review

The accounts show that £132,642 was received in the year (2020: £135,499). Payments totalled £133,667 (2020: £69,431), with grants of £104,154 made to support the Brightlingsea and Girl Power projects. Total funds held by the Charity at 31 December 2021 were £95,677, of which £22,720 were restricted, £10,000 designated and £62,957 unrestricted. Funds have been carefully saved in 2021 to fund an additional 5 classrooms in 2022. The classrooms will be used as a Junior

High School at The Brightlingsea Academy and will enable 250 children to remain at the school between the ages of 11-14. Funds will also be spent on a school minibus as we face constant threats from floods caused by the rainy seasons. It often means many of our most remote children cannot safely get to school. We will also purchase some Girl Power Centre land of our own. This is so the charity can avoid paying increasing rates of rent in the city center of Kumasi. Therefore, funds have been saved to allow for important points of progress and development across both of our projects in Ghana.

Reserves policy

Porridge and Pens aims to hold general unrestricted reserves of £45,000. This amount is reviewed every 3 months by trustees. This amount is deemed sufficient to support projects, two staff in the UK and 28 Ghanaian staff, and all our activities supporting beneficiaries, for six months should no other source of funding be available.

Trustees feel it is especially important at this uncertain time to have the funds to safeguard our projects for six months at a time.

The annual report was approved by the Trustees of the charity on 17 June 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Gregg Weaver

G Weaver – Chair of Trustees

PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

Registered Charity Number 1166497

EDMUND CARR LLP
Chartered Accountants
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex

PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 2 and 3.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity 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.

Colin Barker FCA

Edmund Carr LLP
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
CM2 0AW

PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Donations and gift aid	49,443	30,697	80,140	104,992
Fundraising	1,102	-	1,102	13,774
Grants	5,100	46,300	51,400	15,740
Sundry income	-	-	-	993
TOTAL RECEIPTS	55,645	76,997	132,642	135,499
PAYMENTS				
Grants - Brightlingsea School	17,676	53,367	71,043	31,546
Grants - Girl Power	919	32,192	33,111	22,059
	18,595	85,559	104,154	53,605
Staff wages	22,919	-	22,919	9,230
Computer equipment	479	-	479	1,254
Fundraising costs (marathon entry)	1,658	-	1,658	1,400
Just giving commission	216	-	216	180
Trustees expenses:				
Travel and subsistence costs	-	-	-	-
Indemnity insurance	434	-	434	434
General and administration expenses	26	-	26	82
Printing, postage & stationery	275	-	275	144
IT software and consumables	437	-	437	316
Staff training and travel	-	-	-	366
Bank/Paypal fees	606	-	606	682
Marketing costs	6	-	6	259
Accountancy and payroll costs	2,457	-	2,457	1,479
TOTAL PAYMENTS	48,108	85,559	133,667	69,431
NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)	7,537	(8,562)	(1,025)	66,068
Transfers between funds	(508)	508	-	-
Cash funds brought forward	65,928	30,774	96,702	30,634
Cash funds carried forward	72,957	22,720	95,677	96,702

PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

At 31st December 2021

		2021 £	2020 £
Unrestricted cash funds	**Note 1**	62,957	55,928
Designated cash funds	**Note 2**	10,000	10,000
Restricted cash funds	**Note 3**	22,720	30,774
Total assets		95,677	96,702
Creditors and accruals		1,200	1,248
Total liabilities		1,200	1,248

Approved by the trustees on …..... and signed on their behalf by:

….....
G Weaver
Chair of Trustees

Note 1
Unrestricted funds include funds to be spent on project expansion and development in 2022, including a school minibus and 5 additional classrooms.

Note 2
The Trustees have designated £10,000 towards setting up a catering enterprise in Ghana as part of the Girl Power Project.

Note 3
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PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

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YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

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Chartered Accountants
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
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PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

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PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

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PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

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PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

England & Wales - Charity number 1166497

Accounts

2020 Trustees' Report

"Porridge and Pens is a small charity that punches well above its weight"

The FORE (COVID -19 RAFT RAFT FUND APPEAL 2020)

Our vision and mission

Our vision is for every child in Ghana to have an equal chance to achieve their potential and be free from poverty.

Our mission is to provide children and young adults in Ghana with a free education, access to two meals each day and safe shelter, so that young people can create their own bright futures, free from poverty.

About Porridge and Pens

Porridge and Pens is a small charity working from Essex to help Ghana's most vulnerable young people live a life free from poverty. We create an environment of empowerment with three simple tools: Education, Food and Safety. With these three things children graduate from our projects with independence and financial sustainability. Our beneficiaries don't want to rely on charity forever; we provide a steppingstone.

Our founder, Jemma, started Porridge and Pens from her bedroom in Brightlingsea, Essex. After spending a year in Ghana living and teaching, she met an orphan girl called Ama, back in 2009. Ama was a 14-year-old girl who was desperately unhappy and trapped working in a form of modern-day slavery, suffering from daily abuse. Because Ama wasn't paid for her work, she couldn't afford to go to school which isn't free in Ghana. Gender inequality is also prevalent in the area we work so girls get left behind too easily and are often tasked with the chores of the house. Jemma supported Ama through her education with her own money. Ama is now a chef for an international tour company.

Jemma and Ama remain best friends today.

Porridge and Pens is based on a simple model – giving children the chance to go to school, giving them food at school and surrounding them with professionals who care about them. To date we have worked with 650 children to do just that.

Ama remains the inspiration behind Porridge and Pens.

Porridge and Pens - Girl Power

The situation for disadvantaged girls in Kumasi:

Most girls who do not complete their basic school education in Ghana go on to become unskilled workers in the area of petty trade. For example, they might sell canned drinks or basic food items on the streets of Kumasi. According to the most recent Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS) the average female petty trader earns no more than £1.50 a day, working ten hours each day. With the cost of rent in Kumasi around £25 each month for a single room, this does not leave an adequate amount for essentials. If a girl can complete their basic school education and a vocational qualification afterwards, it provides opportunities to earn far more than this and live financially independent lives. For example, a Junior Seamstress can earn a starting wage of £100 a month. Our Girl Power project supports girls by encouraging them to work towards a higher level of education. Girl Power knocks down the barriers preventing girls from getting into school and staying there.

"Breaking the cycle of disadvantage is simple if we are able to engage girls from a young age with their education and help them understand why it's so important. This is what Girl Power does and why it's such an effective, life changing project." ***Jemma Williams - Founder.***

What is the Girl Power Project?

Girl Power is a holistic educational and wellbeing program for the most vulnerable young girls and women in Kumasi, Ghana. We work in partnership with local orphanages, NGOs, schools and families to identify girls and young women between ages 5-30, who live without their basic needs being met. Often, they find themselves living in danger in their current situations. We help them make a future free from poverty. Lots of the girls and young women we work with are homeless, orphans, teenage mothers or at risk of dropping out of school because of poverty and gender inequality. We provide everything they need to succeed and become independent in their futures.

Our 'Girl Power' project is about transforming the lives of the most marginalised girls who have suffered horrifically in their lives. In Ghana only 30% of students enrolled within higher levels of education are female. Our Girl Power project challenges this by providing a holistic education and care program, giving girls an education and aiming to increase the percentage of girls enrolled in higher education in Kumasi, one of Ghana's largest cities.

We focus our support on orphan and street children who are pre-teen and adolescents. We provide essential resources and remove barriers to ensure they are safe, happy and in education.

The Girl Power project currently supports 50 girls (aged 5 to 30) and their family members with the services we provide. The girls live on the streets of Kumasi or have come from backgrounds of absolute poverty prior to joining Girl Power. We offer safe shelter and accommodation for girls at our project base known as 'The Girl Power Centre'. The centre provides accommodation and a place to call home to girls who need it. Most girls come to us traumatised and withdrawn. Over time this changes with care, kindness and support given by our project staff and the stability and security the project and full-time education gives them.

Attendance at the Girl Power Centre makes a real, measurable impact on the lives of the girls we support. We know this because:

- **When older girls enrol on the Girl Power project, their average wage is between £0 and £2.50 per week. After a girl has graduated with us their average salary increases to £35 per week.**
- **82% of Girl Power students went hungry during the day before being enrolled.**
-

Ophelia is one of the girls who lives at our centre. After losing both her parents and her grandmother in a short space of time, Ophelia ended up living on the streets of Kumasi selling smoked fish. She didn't earn enough to pay for her school fees, and she had no relatives in a position to help her. She was living underneath a plastic sheet by an abandoned railway station. Three years later, Ophelia is happy and vibrant, she's confident and optimistic about her future. Claudia, our Girl Power Centre Manager says, "Ophelia really sits up and learns". "I call her 'Possible' because her story gives me hope that all things are possible."

How we help young women and girls live without fear:

We are so proud of everything the Girl Power project has achieved so far and we have ambitious plans for the project's future. Here is what we do for our beneficiaries to break the often-generational cycle of disadvantage:

1) Emergency short term and long-term accommodation for the girls and their families when they are in immediate danger.
2) Formal and vocational weekday education for 50 girls - Books, uniforms, equipment and all learning resources.
3) Weekly mental health and wellbeing nurture sessions.
4) School and weekend feeding for girls and their families - two meals each day of the week.
5) Personal, social, health education through weekend classes - Business grants and mentoring for Girl Power families.
6) Family business mentoring.
7) Access to our 24/7 manned Girl Power Centre which is a ‘home from home’ for the girls with our amazing Girl Power Social Worker - Claudia.
8) Small grants and support to help with medical costs and family emergencies.

COVID-19 and Girl Power

The emergence of COVID-19 impacted our Girl Power students and their families enormously.

Felix Danso, our Girl Power Project Manager, discusses how Girl Power supported our students and their families through the worst of the pandemic:

"About 15 months ago, the world was hit with the deadly disease called COVID-19. The mode of spread and its death rate was particularly scary for us in Ghana. This virus, in so many ways, has distorted everything the human race was about, from mass gatherings like sports activities, religious activities, schools and most of our businesses were forced to shut down. This all made life so difficult. And as it became a global pandemic Ghana was not exempted, we had our very own ups and downs with the virus.

As schools were shut down and with reopening dates not known, our girls on the Girl Power project were not able to go to school. In turn, this meant they would miss their breakfast and lunch from school. This was so horrifying for us, as some of their parents had just lost their jobs from the pandemic and could barely find the funds to feed their families. So, our teams (Team Ghana and Team UK) decided to act. Staff at our Girl Power project dropped off food supplies and emergency items to all our Girl Power students and their families over the course of many months during the height of the pandemic. We needed to make the deliveries for the period when the virus was very intense in Ghana and almost every country was in lockdown, including Ghana.

From April 2020 to August 2020, we shared food deliveries to 35 households from the Girl Power project, without these emergency food supplies, life would have been completely unbearable for the families. We were supporting around 175 people every single day with food supplies. The feedback we received from the short term project was really positive

and we received numerous calls from the parents showing gratitude regarding the kind gestures we made to them, with some even telling us they didn't even know what the future held for them as we entered into lockdown, not having any savings and some suddenly finding themselves with no work as a result of Ghana's lockdown and the pandemic.
So, I can gladly and proudly say that during the lockdown periods of 2020 we made a vital impact on our Girl Power students' lives and their families lives through the distribution of vital provisions."

Felix Danso - Girl Power Project Manager - Porridge and Pens.

Girl Power 2020 Stories of Impact by Claudia - The Girl Power Centre Manager:

Girl Power Student - Blessing's Story

"I met Blessing around the neighborhood, close to the Girl Power Centre. I noticed it was a very odd time to see a girl wandering around the streets alone. I asked her why she was not in school, and she told me she had been out of school for some time. Her mother was sick, and she was taking care of her. I was curious about her situation. I decided to meet with her family to see if we could help. I went to her house for a visit with her mother the next day. The mother was so sick when I met her. Blessing was taking care of her mother. Her father had died, and her grandmother was not around so it was all dependent on Blessing. I knew we needed to enroll her on our Girl Power project to get her back into school. Her father had died a year before her mother fell sick, so Blessing had faced this situation alone for a long time. She also has younger siblings she had to take care of. The mother had a small store in front of their house. Because the mother was so sick there was almost nothing in the shop. They used all their money to take care of their mother.

When Blessing was enrolled on Girl Power, we also gave the mother some funds to restore her shop and build up her business again. She got very sick after that, and it wasn't easy at all. She was bed ridden and every time I went to visit her, she was getting worse and worse.

Actually, just today, I have received the news that Blessing's Mother has died. So, as I speak now, Blessing is an orphan. Blessing's grandmother will be the one to take care of them all now.

Blessing is such an intelligent girl, she is very, very smart. She has to battle what a girl her age should not go through. She has already battled lots of it. She has been going to school since she's been part of the Girl Power project and coming home to take care of her mother. It has been very tough for the girl.

The Girl Power centre has always been there for her. She used to call me and tell me about how her mother is doing. When she called me this morning, I was expecting it to just be another update. I was even about to ask her why she wasn't in school. She just hit me with the news that her mother had died. It's been a very sad ride for Blessing. I've seen her, she is very optimistic about the future. That is such a good thing. In time, her reliance on the centre is the only hope she has.

She has been calling me to be by her side and I have been helping with the medical situation. I will now be rushing to Blessing's house to see how they are doing. The centre has been a blessing for her and now more than ever Blessing needs the centre. Now more than ever she needs our help and our support. Noone else will be there for her. I pray she pulls through this strong."

Girl Power Student - Benedicta's Story

“I would like to talk about Benedicta. I was introduced to her, through her teacher. She is from a family with seven siblings. Sadly, her father died. The father fell so sick, so they used all the family money on his health. They used up all her mother’s pension fund to pay for treatment for her father. They were left without anything when he died.

Benedicta had to live with her grandmother alongside her seven siblings, once her father died. It is a place in deep poverty. Her mother is still not working because she has no one to help look after the other children.

When I met Benedicta I realised how much of a good girl she is but how she would easily fall victim to teenage pregnancy or get into gangs because she has so very little. She is an extremely humble and respectful girl. Academically she has it. I made a move and went to the house. I took some food items because I saw they didn't have much. There are many in the house so no amount of food you give them is enough. I went there and I saw the situation and it was really disheartening and so we enrolled her to our Porridge and Pens Girl Power project.

By God's Grace, through the Girl Power Centre Benedicta was enrolled into school. She is in senior high school now. She has all the books she needs to do well. She is so talkative and friendly since being enrolled on the Girl Power project.

She goes to school as a free girl now. Previously she was given very little money to eat at school and any money she was given by her mother, around 18 pence a day, she would give it to her younger siblings so they could eat some lunch. She felt, being the eldest, she needed to make sure her younger siblings ate a proper lunch before her. So she gave it up for them, being the oldest. She was starving every day. Some days she asked a teacher for money to eat. When Benedicta was admitted to

the Girl Power project her mother called me and I could hear the relief in her voice.

The books we have purchased for her are being reused by her brother now she's gone up a year at school. Benedicta's life has changed now.

She's such a young girl, she should not have had to think about how to feed herself. Now that burden has been lifted. She goes to school with a free mind, with her provisions and with everything she needs for school.

One thing that has been amazing, is seeing that Benedicta has realised she doesn't need to be timid and shy. She can be confident and herself, especially around the other Girl Power students. She has a beautiful relationship with the other girls on the project, and she sees them as all her sisters now. She laughs a lot and a really funny side of her has come out."

Girl Power quotes from 2020:

CELESTINA *writes:*

"Porridge and Pens built all the hopes a fifteen year old girl had lost. I am Celestina Ahemadu and I am that fifteen year old girl. I love the Girl Power Centre because my worries disappear whenever I'm there. The centre has literally changed my life. The centre is my peace and I look forward to always visiting the place. I feel safe in the presence of Sis Claudia and Bro Kofi. I love that the centre is a nice place for studies and I also love the sessions about lifestyle and education. Sleepovers are my favourite time at the centre. God richly bless you all for your contributions in a little girl's life. I love you all."

DOROTHY *writes:*

"Porridge and Pens had no centre when I joined but now we have a beautiful place at Patasi and I totally love the place. The centre has given us a place we can have fun, cook together, eat together and enjoy each other's company. Sis Claudia thank you so much."

YIDA *writes:*

"Getting help from total strangers. These strangers turned out to be caring. I can't even express these feelings. I am Yida Richeal Thompson and I have been with Porridge and Pens for about two years. I love the centre. It has a very big hall, a separate bathroom and a bedroom for all the girls. Aunty Claudia makes us feel at home. The centre is my second home and I am most grateful. Thank you."

ANSAH *writes:*

"Big family, I love my sisters and I love Girl Power Centre"

ABABIO *writes:*

"I love this my home, Girl Power Centre."

PATIENCE *writes*:

“ Sis Claudia, you are kind. Thank you.”

SERWAAH *writes:*

“Serwaah is my name. A girl of sixteen years old. I joined this organization about three years ago. At first the group was not having a centre so we were not able to socialize and communicate with each other. Now with the help of our leaders, we now have a centre which is located at Patasi.

I love this centre because the place is very comfortable and has a cool and conducive environment. Sleepovers are the most important to me and I look forward to them. I am very happy to be staying at the centre at the moment. There are provision of things such as books, food and drinks and many more. I love end of year parties as well.

Ever since I became a recipient of this project, all my basic needs are being provided. I feel blessed and honoured. Thank you.”

OPHELIA *writes:*

“I am very grateful for what Porridge and Pens has done for me and are still doing for me. Porridge and Pens built all the hope that I lost during my crisis. It really excites me to be a part of Porridge and Pens. Porridge and Pens changed my dreams and I have also learnt a lot from it. The Girl Power Centre has a calm vicinity for studies. It’s also a place to cast all burdens, the centre is lovely that, the moment you step inside, you begin to forget all your problems. For me, I feel like the world is mine whenever I find myself in that centre. Nothing bothers me when I am in the centre. I am really praying hard that God will one day give me the heart like Porridge and Pens so that I can also do much more of what Porridge and Pens is doing for me to others. I love you.

Sis Claudia is the kindest person I have met, she takes very good care of me and the other girls and has a caring family who treat us like their own. Staying at the centre is a dream come true for me.”

The Brightlingsea Academy

The Brightlingsea Academy is a small school in a very rural part of Ghana which is totally off the beaten track. The Brightlingsea Academy is named after the small town in Essex where the Porridge and Pens' founder and several trustees live.

It is the only free and disability-friendly school in the region. We have over 200 children who attend the school every day, who live in extreme poverty and deprivation at home. Without the Brightlingsea Academy the children would not be able to go to school because of their remote location and because of the cost of education in Ghana. Things like school meals, uniforms, equipment, PTA fees, schoolbooks and even the transportation to school, all add up. Considering the average wage for most of our families is under £1 a day, sending their children to school is sadly a real luxury.

The Brightlingsea Academy was built by Porridge and Pens in partnership with the local community in 2016. Initially it was a school for 30 children aged 0-5 years with four classrooms. Now, with growing support and

awareness, we have 12 classrooms, 18 members of staff and over 200 children aged 0-11 from nursery to primary school. What started as a small nursery is now a fully-fledged, bustling school which safeguards the poorest children and gives them an opportunity to complete their primary school education.

70% of children join the Brightlingsea Academy underweight or suffering from more serious cases of malnutrition. We provide free feeding at the Brightlingsea Academy, so every child has access to a free breakfast, lunch and a snack during the daytime. We provide the funds for the school to employ three full time school cooks, to plan, buy and cook school meals.

Before the pandemic hit Ghana, the Brightlingsea Academy was going from strength to strength. The school was a super busy bustling primary school. It was exactly what you would want to see when you put 200+ children together! Laughing, chattering and general happiness all around.

Since the school's establishment, 65% of students' parents have found employment.

Before the school's existence, children as young as one were left at home all day with siblings while their parents worked or looked for work. Childcare was a real issue in the village as it was mostly private, expensive and hard to come by. We have helped solve this issue by offering nursery and school places at the school. Spaces are always in constant demand. Since most parents are now able to work, knowing their children are cared for, many now choose to give back to the school and make small weekly donations to the school feeding program. This helps us make sure we can provide generous portion sizes and nutritious meals for all children. We feel it's a major step forward where the school and community work in partnership.

Porridge and Pens and the Brightlingsea Academy, the early days:

In 2009, before Porridge and Pens became a registered charity, our founder (Jemma) went to Ghana for the first time to volunteer as a secondary school teacher. While living and teaching in Ghana she met a local English schoolteacher, Ben, who was passionate about education in Ghana and its development, especially in rural parts of Kumasi where he grew up. Jemma spent lots of time in poor and rural parts of Kumasi where she witnessed low rates of food production, poor terrain, slum living, no electricity and poor access to toilets, waste disposal services, transport or even water sources.

Jemma and Ben spent the next seven years fundraising and working together to build the Brightlingsea Academy within the Assenua community in Kumasi. This area was chosen because it was a new community of people who had moved from the city of Kumasi, or more rural parts of Ghana, to start a better life with the hope of employment. There was no school in the area other than an expensive fee-paying private school. Jemma and Ben opened the Brightlingsea Academy in 2016, registering 30 children on the first day. In 2016, Porridge and Pens was officially recognised as a registered charity!

Why we decided to build the Brightlingsea Academy in the Assenua Village:

- Rural community in Kumasi
- Lots of children live with their Grandparents or come from a single parent family
- The average wage for a single parent family is 10 Ghana Cedi a day, a little over £1.50
- A new settlement of people hoping to make a better life
- Extremely poor terrain and without roads and infrastructure
- High rates of unskilled workers, particularly amongst the female

community

- Lack of employment opportunities
- Low rates of food production
- Extreme flooding during the rainy season
- Waste disposal serves are absent
- Brightlingsea Academy is the only free school within the area
- Life is tough and hand to mouth living is the norm.

Education at the Brightlingsea Academy:

- The Brightlingsea Academy follows the Ghanaian education curriculum from nursery to primary school level.
- All resources, uniforms and equipment are provided for children so no child is left behind because of low family income.
- Enhanced learning opportunities with the new school ICT centre began development in 2020 when 13 computers were funded to the school.
- Weekly whole school sports activities
- Termly school trips to support children's learning opportunities.

Brightlingsea Academy student supported school feeding:

Families eat between one and two meals each day; this usually consists of breakfast and dinner. Lunch is not recognised amongst lots of the student's families because parents do not have the resources to offer it. This means 70% of children join the Brightlingsea Academy underweight or suffering from malnutrition. We fund free feeding at the Brightlingsea Academy so every child has access to a free breakfast, lunch and a snack during the daytime. We provide the funds for the school to employ three full time school cooks, to plan, buy and cook school meals. In a normal school year, we help provide over 100,000 school meals!

Since the school's establishment 65% of students' parents have found employment. This is a great success. It means some parents want to give back to the school and do this by making weekly donations to the school feeding program. This helps us make sure we can provide generous portion sizes and nutritious meals for all children. We feel it's a major step forward and shows the impact the school is having on the community. For most parents, they are not able to do this. We hope as time goes on and the school continues
to make a difference to the livelihoods of parents, the school can continue taking small steps to support future sustainability.

Teachers' wages

Funding teachers' monthly salaries is a significant part of the work we do. The teachers and staff are dedicated and passionate about the work they do with vulnerable children. They are committed to making changes that will steer the path and shape a future. Teachers are trained and mentored carefully by the school's headteacher, Ben.

Teachers share their ideas and thoughts on school improvement and the future of the school regularly through monthly meetings and feedback reports to Porridge and Pens. Porridge and Pens regularly provides international teacher training opportunities for Ghanaian teachers to receive training from UK skilled and experienced teachers in areas such as teaching and learning and behaviour management.

Health

At the Brightlingsea Academy, we provide health insurance for every child. This means treatment for common illnesses is cheaper and seeing a doctor is free for every child.

Monthly nurse visit

A community nurse provides each child with a health check and recommends further treatments or doctor referrals. The headteacher works carefully with parents and careers to find the right treatment. In 2019 the school nurse detected two serious eye conditions and two cases of malnutrition. Since then, the school has been able to provide interventions and follow-up treatments following the diagnosis. We have also revised the

school feeding program and social welfare interventions to accommodate the most severe cases of malnutrition.

Social welfare support for families

We fund a social welfare officer to help resolve some of the following issues:

Issue	**Intervention and resolution**
Some children from the poorest families were not coming to school during the last few days of the week because their uniform would become dirty by then and the cost of regular bars of soap was too expensive for these households.	The school social welfare officer now provides these families with a regular soap supply.
A minority of children were walking long distances to school without shoes and came to school with injured feet.	Comfortable shoes are purchased for children who live far away from the school.
Some parents could not afford the transportation costs or the treatment for their child's illness despite using their child's health insurance.	Any medical costs that are very costly are paid by the school. We want to make sure children all have access to the treatment they need.
A minority of children were walking long distances to school alone and some are under the age of four.	The social welfare officer has arranged for a teacher who lives nearby to the children's home to escort the child to school safely.
The children from the poorest families were going hungry during	The Social Welfare Officer makes regular visits to homes after-school,

the weekends and school holidays when they did not have access to school meals	weekends and during the holidays. Basic supplies of food and hygiene products are provided for those who cannot afford them.

How Porridge and Pens supported The Brightlingsea Academy through the emergence of Covid-19 in Ghana 2020:

Before the pandemic hit Ghana, the Brightlingsea Academy was going from strength to strength. Children were happy, healthy and enjoying school. The school had a real buzz and children, staff and parents all took great pride in their school. Parents knew their children were safe and cared for so many were able to find work to help support their families. The whole community was thriving and industry in the village was building.

What the school offers the children at the Brightlingsea Academy is unique. It focuses on every aspect of the child and their general wellbeing through various measures we have in place to ensure every child is considered and cared for.

Most of the children are from extremely poor families and live on very little. 90% of families don't have basic things like electricity, running water or even a comfy place to sleep. None of the children's parents or guardians own their own homes and this puts families in vulnerable positions with their landlords, who often come back to their properties without any warning. Families can be forced to leave with as little as a few days' notice.

Even before the pandemic, children's parents were earning very little, often as unskilled petty traders. This would provide enough cash for families to put food on the table each night. Families live hand to mouth each day, with little or no savings for rainy days.

With the emergency of Covid-19 in Ghana during 2020 the Brightlingsea Academy was forced to close on 22nd March 2020 and the country was placed into a lockdown. This meant our students and their families were, instantly and overnight, out of work. People in the village became scared and worried. Without a job to go to, this literally meant there would be no money to buy the evening meal. Within a week of the lockdown in Ghana, children and families from the remote village where the Brightlingsea Academy is based; were going hungry. Without the support from Porridge and Pens our students, who usually received two meals a day from the Brightlingsea Academy, were almost certainly going to suffer.

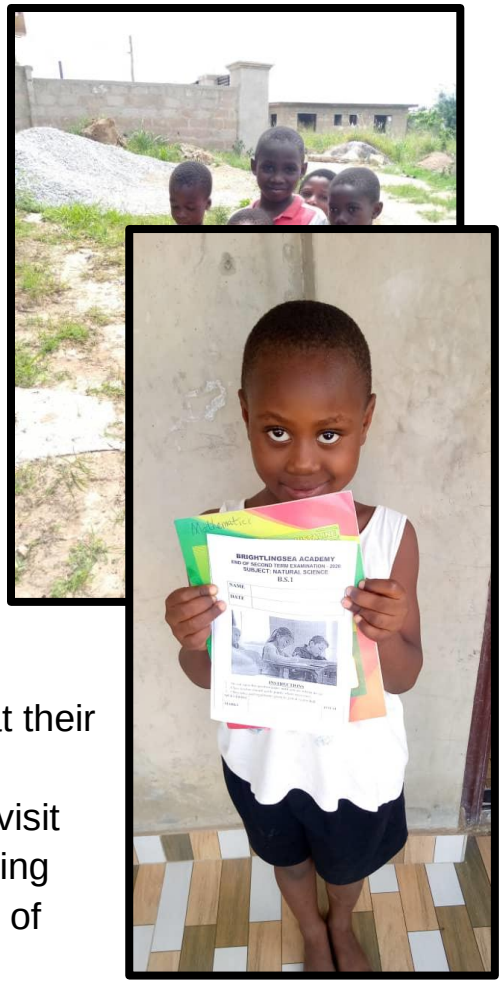
Working together with our truly amazing staff at the Brightlingsea Academy and our influential headteacher, Ben Antwi, we put together a plan to start feeding those who needed help.

Ben worked with the children's class teachers and kitchen staff to identify the children and families who needed emergency food support. Nearly 60 families were seriously struggling to feed their children and families after a week of Ghana's lockdown.

Almost overnight and with no prior planning or training, 18 staff members from the Brightlingsea Academy became dedicated food distributors and walked many miles each day in the hot sun to deliver crucial food items to our most vulnerable families. This often involved walking through remote bushland for long periods of time with heavy loads, in order to reach their students' homes. The dedication demonstrated by staff was quite simply - incredible. It was not always possible for cars to reach some of the most

remote parts of the village and so walking was the only option.

After nearly three months of means assessing and food distribution, teachers and other staff from the Brightlingsea Academy knew they needed to do more for students who had no access to learning materials, reading books or the internet. It was also unknown when the school was going to reopen.



Most of the students come from extremely rural parts of the village and are cut off from others. The teachers wanted to give their students something to do each day and prevent students from falling further behind. A change of tactic was needed as the pandemic continued to keep the school doors firmly closed.

Students' class teachers decided to visit every student from their class twice a week at their homes. They took any food supplies and emergency items requested on their second visit of the week. Teachers also spent time teaching and setting students up with work for the rest of the week. This meant all children had some access to learning and teachers could still assess who needed food and medical support. This strategy worked extremely well until November 2020.

Parents from the village needed to return to work as things slowly started to resume back to normal in Ghana but schools were still forced to close. The lack of childcare facilities was preventing the poorest families from returning to work.

Ben, our school's headteacher, decided to act in order to help parents get back to work. Together, alongside the school PTA, the Brightlingsea

Academy opened seven school outdoor outreach centres around the village. The outreach centres were in central large and open space locations within easy reach for most parents.

We provided one hot meal each day for all the children and childcare for students from the village. This enabled parents to get back to work and start living normally again.

The Brightlingsea Academy managed seven educational centres with nearly 230 children attending in total each day, until the reopening of the school in early 2021.

We are so incredibly proud of
our staff at the Brightlingsea Academy. They acted with complete commitment to their students and the dedication and willingness to go over and above for their students every day, in extremely harsh conditions.

The success of the Covid-19 operation at the Brightlingsea Academy during its closure was largely due to the leadership of the schools headteacher, Ben.

Ben understood the needs of local villagers, students and their families. Without his deep level of awareness, influence and commitment, Porridge and Pens would not have been able to run such a complex,

sensitive and thorough operation which kept children and their families safe and well during the height of the pandemic in Ghana.

We are so pleased to have fully reopened the doors to the children of the Brightlingsea Academy and the usual scenes at our small rural school have very much returned. **- By Jemma Williams - Porridge and Pens Founder**

Reference and Administrative Information:

Porridge and Pens Ghana

Registered Charity Number: 1166497

Principal Address: 1 Chapman Close, Brightlingsea, Essex, CO70FS,

Trustees: G Weaver (Chair of Trustees), C Tibbs, J Meak, E Smith, P Tibbs

CEO: J Williams

UK Project Manager: L Smith

Bankers: Barclays Bank, 9 High Street, Colchester, CO1 1DA Accountants: Edmund Carr LLP, 146 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0AW

Charity Objectives (as stated in the constitution)

"To relieve poverty of orphaned, abandoned and vulnerable children, young adults and families, by provision of such grants and donations as shall be thought fit to orphanages, schools, individuals and families in Kumasi, Ghana, to improve their conditions of life"

Strategic plan 2016 - 2021

The impact we aim to achieve through our five-year strategy is a reduction in extreme poverty, gender inequality and injustice in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. Our projects focus on the following three priority areas: Girls Education, Equality and Safety – Girls and young women are equal and respected members of society who are safe at home, in school and in their community. Food security: Children have improved food security with access to two free school meals each day Early childhood and primary education – Children from rural Kumasi in the Ashanti region of Ghana have access to good, free early childhood education. The trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when determining the activities of the charity.

With the effects of Covid-19 still working its way through Ghana and causing vulnerabilities within society and the communities we work in, we need to focus on rebuilding and strengthening our projects to ensure we can continue to keep children and their families healthy and safe and this shall be our focus over 2021 and 2022.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

How we work

Because our resources are so limited, we work hard to make sure our structure and management enables us to always benefit the poorest young people in Ghana. Since Porridge and Pens was established in 2016, the number of beneficiaries seeking support from one of our projects in Ghana has increased by 67%. Most of this growth has been in the past two years and only possible because trustees have invested in our charity's organisational capacity in the UK by employing two members of staff. In 2020 the Chief Executive Officer was joined by a UK Project Manager to support the charity's efforts in Ghana. Investment in our organisational capacity has continued to support the management of charity and projects and contributed to our most successful year to date, despite the difficult circumstances of the pandemic. We have seen our income increase by £63,946 which has allowed trustees to invest more into our projects in Ghana and support those most vulnerable throughout the Covid -19 pandemic. During the height of the pandemic, Porridge and Pens supported 1,000 people per day with food supplies.

We believe this important organisational investment will continue to support growth and sustainability in line with our charity's objectives and ensure we can be there for all our beneficiaries in emergency situations like we saw in 2020.

Our entire board of trustees and key volunteers continue to make an invaluable contribution to day-to-day management of our organisation. We have some very dedicated volunteers who offer their services to the organisation on a part time, voluntary basis. Our trustees and staff continue to work hard to ensure the smooth running of the organisation. Trustees are appointed by invitation from the existing board of Trustees. A Trustee will be appointed if there is a unanimous agreement of all existing Trustees. New Trustees will be given a copy of the Charity Commission's guidance for Trustees "The Essential Trustee" (CC3) and a copy of latest accounts.

Risk Management

Potential risk to the charity is considered and discussed by the trustees at the start of every year and regularly kept updated on any project risks by the CEO. We use our risk management policy and seek guidance from the necessary bodies to ensure compliance and limit risk to the organisation, staff, trustee and beneficiaries.

Sending money to Ghana

Porridge and Pens transfers funds to Ghana in two ways. SendWave allows the recipient to receive the funds instantly by using their mobile money account. This is a very common, safe and accepted way of collecting money in Ghana. We currently use SendWave as it has very low transaction fees and has always been reliable and fast. We send money this way when there is an unexpected cost or a project needs the funds urgently and unexpectedly, in some cases. As soon as the money is sent from the UK Porridge and Pens account it is with the recipient in a matter of minutes. This is one of the ways we rely on getting funds for our projects. The second way is via Transferwise. It is cheaper to send funds using Transferwise than through our bank, Barclays. It can take a lot longer to send funds this way, however the exchange rate is usually a little better on this platform. We try to send larger amounts of money using Transferwise so we benefit from a higher exchange rate. We plan in order to use this platform as sometimes funds can take up to a week to arrive in Ghana.

Partners in Ghana

Porridge and Pens works carefully with selected partners to fulfil the aims of our Girl Power Project. Through 2020 we have worked with Pen to Paper Ghana and the Shirl and Don Foundation.

Fundraising In 2020

In 2020, Covid-19 meant that we had to look at new, inventive and remote methods of fundraising. Having identified an immediate need for support for families who were unable to work, we launched an appeal online. Our supporters generously made 202 donations totaling £11,403.14. Online quiz nights raised £1,113 in voluntary donations. Each year we hold a local Fun Run. In 2020 our volunteers successfully adapted this to a virtual fun run which raised £900. We held a Christmas Big Give appeal

with matched donations for the second year running from the Coles-Medlock Foundation and pledgers from our very own supporters. They generously matched all the donations received during the appeal. One of our supporters was sponsored by friends and family to climb Mount Snowdon whilst two others climbed their stairs at home to match the height of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Porridge and Pens and 2020 donor support

Our main source of income continues to be donations by our generous supporters. They keep us going and respond in a crisis and to appeals for projects. They are the lifeblood of the charity, and we could not do what we do without them. We have many regular donors who donate each month in amounts from £7.50 up to £200. During 2020 monthly standing orders to our bank, from regular donors, totaled £19,558 and our regular website donations totaled £14,085.42. In addition, we also received lots of one off donations to our bank and our website. We can't thank them enough for stepping up every time we need them.

The Childrensalon chose us for their charity of the year after fundraising for us the previous year. They began with a donation of £500 per month but, following our COVID-19 appeal, they increased their monthly donation to £750. This was absolutely crucial to our COVID-19 plan. It enabled us to get learning packs to children at home, paid for meals at our seven centres and now funds enrichment to our free school meals and provides an afternoon snack to keep the children fuller for longer. In October they organised a Halloween cake decorating contest which saw creative entries.

We were excited to hear they had chosen to donate a percentage of their profits from Black Friday sales to two charities and that we had been selected as one of them. We were absolutely blown away when we were informed, we would be receiving a donation of £50,000! Once we got over the initial shock, it quickly became apparent just what we could achieve with this donation. The security it offered us at the end of the worst year was extremely emotional and the possibilities of what we could do in 2021 started coming to us. We will forever be grateful for what these unrestricted funds have done.

Rotaries and Clubs

We are always extremely grateful for the support and donations made by local Rotary Clubs. In 2020 Rotary Clubs also had their fundraising streams cut so we were very pleased that Chelmsford Phoenix, Mayflower and Hadleigh Castle still donated to us in a difficult year for all of us. Several Rotary Clubs made plans to help us with fundraising for the roof for our new classrooms and were able to work remotely with us to start to plan.

We were able to attend a few clubs and societies before the pandemic hit and we were happy to be able to give talks to several groups. Many of those clubs also made donations to us. These include: U3A, International Women's Day at the Brightlingsea Yacht Club, Inner Wheel, Chelmsford Mother's Union, Maccersfield Mother's Union.

Braintree Lions Club continued to support us with donations to pay for four places at the Brightlingsea Academy.

The Brightlingsea Junior School here in Essex, UK, held several fun events throughout the year that raised funds. They made a lovely donation to support the Brightlingsea Academy in Ghana.

Reserves policy

Porridge and Pens aims to hold general unrestricted reserves of £45,000. This amount is reviewed every 3 months by trustees. This amount is deemed sufficient to support projects, 2 staff in the UK and 20 Ghanaian staff, and all our activities supporting beneficiaries, for six months should no other source of funding be available.

Trustees feel it is especially important at this uncertain time to have the funds to safeguard our projects for six months at a time where covid risks are still uncertain in the UK and Ghana.

In 2020, Porridge and Pens needed to support nearly 600 people a day for 3 months with basic food and essential supplies during the emergency state of lockdown in Ghana. Sadly, many of our direct beneficiaries and their families lost all their income overnight as they were unable to work. The cost of basic food provisions rose by nearly 40%. Considering our direct beneficiaries and their families are extremely vulnerable, without savings and living hand to mouth each day, the trustees feel it is of upmost importance to hold enough in reserves to ensure we can deliver our projects and support with basic emergency provisions, should this situation arise again.

Trustees review the reserves policy every 3 months considering the changing situation.

Due to the unrestricted donation of £50,000 mentioned above, the charity ended the year with general unrestricted reserves of £55,928. In addition, the charity held funds of £10,000 designated by the Trustees to set up a catering enterprise in Ghana in 2021 as part of the Girl Power Project. Restricted funds of £30,774 were also held to be spent on the Girl Power Project and Brightlingsea School in 2021.

The annual report was approved by the Trustees of the charity on 16 September 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Gregg Weaver

G Weaver – Chair of Trustees

PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

Registered Charity Number 1166497

EDMUND CARR LLP
Chartered Accountants
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 2 and 3.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity 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.

Colin Barker

Colin Barker FCA

Edmund Carr LLP
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
CM2 0AW

16 September 2021

PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Donations and gift aid	54,349	50,643	104,992	45,468
Fundraising	-	13,774	13,774	13,294
Grants	-	15,740	15,740	12,420
Sundry income	993	-	993	371
TOTAL RECEIPTS	55,342	80,157	135,499	71,553
PAYMENTS				
Grants - Brightlingsea School	2,295	29,251	31,546	28,083
Grants - Girl Power	1,927	20,132	22,059	16,701
Other grants	-	-	-	60
	4,222	49,383	53,605	44,844
Equipment sent to Ghana	-	-	-	1,326
Staff wages	9,230	-	9,230	13,692
Computer equipment	1,254	-	1,254	-
Fundraising costs (marathon entry)	1,400	-	1,400	1,183
Just giving commission	180	-	180	229
Trustees expenses:				
Travel and subsistence costs	-	-	-	549
Indemnity insurance	434	-	434	464
General and administration expenses	82	-	82	581
Printing, postage & stationery	144	-	144	-
IT software and consumables	316	-	316	-
Staff training	325	-	325	-
Travel	41	-	41	-
Bank/Paypal fees	682	-	682	-
Volunteer expenses	-	-	-	507
Marketing costs	259	-	259	445
Accountancy and payroll costs	1,479	-	1,479	600
TOTAL PAYMENTS	20,048	49,383	69,431	64,420
NET RECEIPTS	35,294	30,774	66,068	7,133
Cash funds brought forward	30,634	-	30,634	23,501
Cash funds carried forward	65,928	30,774	96,702	30,634

PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

At 31st December 2020

		2020 £	2019 £
Unrestricted cash funds		55,928	30,634
Designated cash funds	**Note 1**	10,000	-
Restricted cash funds	**Note 2**	30,774	-
Total assets		96,702	30,634
Creditors and accruals		1,248	630
Total liabilities		1,248	630

Approved by the trustees on 16 September 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Gregg Weaver

….....

G Weaver
Chair of Trustees

Note 1
The Trustees designated £10,000 in 2020 towards setting up a catering enterprise in Ghana during 2021 as part of the Girl Power Project.

Note 2
Restricted funds relate to money raised in 2020 to be spent in 2021 on the Girl Power Project and Brightlingsea School.

PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

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PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

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PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

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PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

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PORRIDGE AND PENS GHANA

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