



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 1st January, 2023- period start date

To: 31st December, 2023 - period end date

Charity name: Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi Society CIO

Charity registration number: 1179324

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The advancement of education for the public benefit by promoting, sustaining and increasing individual and collective knowledge of the works and ideals of Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi (1165-1240 CE), and those people who have perpetuated them, by such means as the trustees think fit, but including study, research, publication, translation and communication of his written works.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>During 2023 the Society's library was relocated to the Woolf Institute, Cambridge. The library represents one of the most significant collections of written works by and about Ibn Arabi. A comprehensive project to re-catalogue the library was completed prior to transfer.</p> <p>MIAS Education hosted a total of 5 online courses embracing a number of different approaches to the study of Ibn Arabi.</p> <p>The Society hosted 6 online seminars featuring established scholars who presented talks on different aspects of Ibn Arabi's thought.</p> <p>Volumes 72 and 73 of the Society's Journal were published during 2023.</p> <p>The Society's YouTube channel has continued to grow and now has 6,300 subscribers.</p> <p>The Society's Facebook page has 16,000 subscribers.</p> <p>A further grant was made to support the work to make the first English translation of the whole of Ibn Arabi's <i>Al-Futūḥāt al-Makkiyya</i> which comprises 37 volumes.</p> <p>The Society was co-sponsor with the Circolo dei Lettori, Torino, of an in-person event entitled: <i>Sama: Spiritual Listening in Ibn Arabi and in Sufi Literature</i> organised by its partner organisation MIAS Latina and held in Torino.</p>

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Society has considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit, specifically that concerning the advancement of education.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	The Society recognises that, after its internal funding commitments have been met, funding external projects is an important way to expand its activities and support valuable work being undertaken to enhance the understanding of Ibn Arabi and his teaching. Grants to projects are made in conformity with the Society's Charitable Objects and are considered in the context of the Society's Business Plan and Budget Priorities. The sustainability and long-term goals of the project are important considerations.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>The Society's library The library has been built up over 40 years through purchases and donations. It represents a unique and important collection of written works by and about Ibn Arabi. Since its inception, the library has been kept in a private house with admission by request. In October it was relocated to The Woolf Institute, Cambridge. Details of the Collection are now included in the Cambridge Theological Federation catalogue and the books are easily accessible to scholars and Cambridge University students in the library at the Woolf Institute.</p> <p>Education courses The Education Team have run a variety of courses during 2023. These have ranged from an intensive 4-week online course to a 10-week online course, each to cater for students with different time restrictions for learning.</p> <p>A further 4-week online course, led by a guest lecturer currently translating Ibn Arabi's <i>Al-Futuh al-Makkiyya</i> into English, gave students an insight into the translation process and an opportunity to develop their own insights into the text.</p> <p>An online introductory course for those new to Ibn Arabi's thought was run over a weekend of intensive study and conversation. It is hoped to run this biannually.</p> <p>During the summer a 3-week online course provided students with an in-depth learning opportunity to study Ibn Arabi's important late work, the <i>Fusus al-Hikam</i>.</p> <p>Online seminars The Society welcomed scholars from around the world to share their current research into Ibn Arabi and engage with audiences during lively question and answer sessions. Events such as these support important research which, in turn, informs and enlarges the community of those interested in Ibn Arabi's teaching.</p> <p>Grants The Society provided a grant to support the translation of <i>Al-Futuh al-Makkiyah</i>, (The Openings Revealed in Makkah). This is the first time an English translation and commentary has been made of all 37 volumes of Ibn Arabi's <i>magnum opus</i>. The importance of translating the whole work into English, for future scholarship and learning, cannot be over-estimated.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>In 2023 the Society's receipts from its everyday activities was £22,556 – very similar to previous years. Disposable income came primarily from Membership subscriptions, general donations (not for a specific purpose), and for the first time, noticeable interest on its deposits. Receipts from sources such as the sale of books, provision of online courses, online events, and journal-related receipts of various kinds, corresponded to areas of expenditure, and tended to break- even or reduce net expenditure.</p> <p>The Society's expenditure on everyday activities was £22,802, also in the same range as previous years. This included the costs associated with moving the Society's Library from a private house in Oxford to the library of the Woolf Institute in Cambridge. However, total expenditure was £33,607 due to the exceptional amount of £10,805 spent on grants and prizes, chiefly contributions of £9,000 to activities such as copy-editing and proofreading Dr Eric Winkel's English translation of the <i>Al-Futuh al-Makkiyya</i>.</p> <p>Apart from the effects on inflation, we may expect the Society's expenditure on its activities to increase as the amount of administration which can be provided by volunteers declines, and there is a corresponding increase in the services which need to be paid for. This can be seen in the rising in cost of pre-print work on the Journal, which will be significant in 2024, and will extend to other areas, such as membership administration and bookkeeping.</p>
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		<p>In 2022 the Society received a windfall gift of EUR 125,000. In 2023 it received a similar gift of EUR 125,000. These two donations have transformed the Society's balance sheet, so that its assets at year-end 2023 totalled £322,689 (compared to £101,511 at end 2021).</p> <p>At the time of making the second donation the donor clarified the intent of the gift, so that the whole amount is now being treated as a Restricted fund, a term used by the Charity Commission to indicate that it may only be used for the purpose for which it is donated, in this case, to provide an income for the Society.</p> <p>Further, in 2022 the Junior Research Fellowship project was brought to an end. In 2023 the donations collected for it in a Restricted fund were distributed, with the agreement of the donors, in part to another Restricted fund, and to the Presidents' Fund, an Unrestricted fund.</p> <p>In 2023 the net transfers between Unrestricted funds and Restricted funds totalled £73,690.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>On occasions the Society has solicited support for a particular project, such as the Manuscript Archive project, but in general donations are spontaneous, and it does not engage in systematic fund-raising. Its income from donations is irregular and unpredictable.</p> <p>It has historically delivered its activities using volunteer effort, and balanced its expenditure with its income from membership subscriptions and a modest level of general donations, together with receipts from its activities e.g., online course fees. At the end of 2023 the Society held £29,603 in retained earnings, and a further amount of £21,206 in the Presidents' fund which it may draw on for any purpose.</p> <p>Since it became a charity in 2018 it has attracted a number of generous donations for specific purposes such as the symposium, manuscript archive catalogue. These donations</p>
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		<p>go to Restricted funds, and are typically used to develop new aspects of its ongoing activities. It had £48,358 in such project-related restricted funds at the end of 2023.</p> <p>As described above, in 2022 and 2023 it received two donations which together had a sterling value of 223,523. These are now a Restricted fund which will be invested to provide an income for the Society.</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The Society's membership income is a vital part of its funding. Its members are spread over more than 20 countries. Turbulent economic conditions and international conflicts may affect their continued participation in the Society. The Society may not recruit enough young members able to take on administrative roles in future.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO – Foundation formed on 25 July 2018
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Election of trustees is by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees, as detailed in the Society's Constitution, clauses: 9; 10; 12 and 13.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	The following policies, which comply with Gov.UK guidance for charities, have been written and ratified by the Board: Finance, Complaints, Conflict of Interest, Risk Management, Privacy (data protection), Safeguarding, Social-Media and Volunteers.

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi Society CIO
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1179324
Charity's principal address	P O Box 892 Oxford OX2 7XL

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	L D Barratt		Appointed July 2018	
2	M E Cass		Appointed July 2018	
3	David Hornsby		Appointed January 2022	
4	Anne-Marie Morrissey		Appointed January 2022	
5	Katherine Randall		Appointed January 2022	
6	Aishah Safdar		Appointed November 2022	
7	C Twinch		Appointed July 2018	
8	R W Twinch		Appointed July 2018	
9	F Youakim		Appointed April 2021	
10	Omar Zein		Appointed November 2022	
11				
12				
13				
14				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

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

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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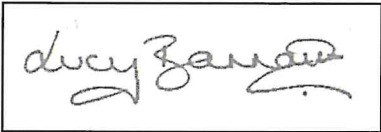
Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

	Signature(s)		
	Full name(s)	Lucy Diana Barratt	
	Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee	
	Date	23.09.2024	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity name

Muhyiddin IBN Arabi Society CIO

No (if any)

1179324

Receipts and payments accounts


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For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/01/2023		31/12/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	2,158	121,358	-	123,516	111,214
Gift Aid	404	2,733	-	3,137	-
Interest	2,586	-	-	2,586	156
Journal	4,669	-	-	4,669	4,401
Membership Subscriptions	7,288	-	-	7,288	6,213
Online Courses	1,882	-	-	1,882	5,251
Online evenets	877	-	-	877	316
Books	2,692	-	-	2,692	5,568
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	22,556	124,091	-	146,647	133,119
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	22,556	124,091	-	146,647	133,119
A3 Payments					
CIO, Accounting , Insurance	2,744	-	-	2,744	4,484
Membership, Office	2,601	-	-	2,601	421
Bank charges, Paypal fees	924	-	-	924	1,018
Internet, Website development	1,029	-	-	1,029	1,019
Booksales, Postage	1,992	-	-	1,992	4,400
Grants	10,805	-	-	10,805	3,841
Journal production, postage	7,073	-	-	7,073	4,151
MIAS Education Courses	2,893	-	-	2,893	4,313
Online events	1,506	-	-	1,506	981
Archive Project	-	-	-	-	113
Library	2,040	-	-	2,040	240
Sub total	33,607	-	-	33,607	24,981
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	33,607	-	-	33,607	24,981
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 11,051	124,091	-	113,040	108,138
A5 Transfers between funds	- 73,690	73,690	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	135,548	74,101	-	209,649	101,511
Cash funds this year end	50,807	271,882	-	322,689	209,649

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		50,807	271,882	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	50,807	271,882	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Stock of printed journals	300	-	-
	Postage stamps	100	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Library of printed books	Unrestricted funds	-	-
	Digital image copies of manuscripts	Unrestricted funds	-	-
	Software catalogue of manuscripts	Unrestricted funds	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Richard Twinch	23/09/2024	
			23/09/2024	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi Society CIO

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2023

Charity no
(if any) 1179324

Set out on pages

As attached

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

BK Silva

Date:

04 October 2024

Name:

B K Silva

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ACA

Address:

MHA, Building 4, Foundation Park, Roxborough Way, Maidenhead, SL6 3UD

