



Friends of Khasdobir, Bangladesh

Charity Number 1185262

3rd Annual Report and Accounts

To 31st March 2023

Patrons: The Rt. Hon the Baroness Morgan of Cotes; Rt. Hon Sir Kevin Barron

Trustees

Mr Mike Sherriff (Chair)
Mrs Moyra Blake (Secretary)
Ms Maureen Haddock
Mrs Kathleen Jackson
Mr Kazi Mashud (Vice-Chair)
Mr Dulon Miah

Mr Monjur Elahi (Membership/Newsletter)
Ms Sue Simmons
Mrs Doreen Watson
Mr Philip Watson (Treasurer)
Rana Al Jalili (Appointed 1/10/2022)
Sachin Mohite (Appointed 1/10/2022)

Bankers: Barclays Business Banking.

Ind. Examiner: P.D.Johnson

Web site: www.khasdobir.org.uk.

History and Objectives

Friends of Khasdobir has operated as a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation since 1st April 2020. Previously we were a registered charitable association and prior to that operated as part of Toc H under the name Toc H Friends of Khasdobir. The objects of Friends of Khasdobir, Bangladesh are:

- *To advance the education of children, young people and adults in Bangladesh, in particular by supporting the work of the Khasdobir Education, Welfare and Development Project to provide and assist in the provision of facilities for education in the area currently known as Sylhet*
- *The relief of financial hardship amongst people living in Bangladesh, in particular by supporting the work of the Khasdobir Education, Welfare and Development Project to make grants of money and provide goods, services or facilities for the relief of the poor living in the area currently known as Sylhet*
- *To advance the education of the public in England and Wales in the subject of development in Bangladesh*

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity has been governed by a constitution adopted at a General Meeting held on June 29th, 2019. Trustees, most of whom have visited the project we support in Bangladesh at one time or another, are appointed by trustees to serve a period of 3 years. There must be between 3 and 12 trustees. This year we appointed two new trustees using the Reach volunteering site and we now have 12 trustees in total.

Review of the Year

Friends of Khasdobir supports the educational and welfare work begun by Peter East and Harun Ahmed in Sylhet, Bangladesh, some 40 years ago. Since 1st July 2018 the Friends have supported the Sylhet Jubo Academy (SJA), a local non-government organisation based in Sylhet, to deliver the project.

This year we made a commitment to continue funding SJA to deliver the

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project for the next three years, up to July 2025. During this period, we are supporting SJA to develop local fundraising activities to sustain the project in the long term. We are also funding an additional school on the Malnichara tea estate, new embroidery training and a new team leader for the outreach work.

In the UK we were able to return to face-to-face fundraising with successful tea parties to support the widows' allowances, and a fundraising meal in Loughborough. We also continued with some of our on-line fundraising including a Sylhet sewing trek and a Christmas puppet show. Fundraising is a continuous challenge, and we appeal to all our supporters to consider how they may assist us with this important work. Our on-line fundraising platform is:

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/nation/friends-of-khasdobir> As part of our online fundraising we now have an embroidery and craft shop selling items produced by the project.

In Sylhet the project provided 11 pre-primary centres for 385 children from the slum areas of the city and the tea gardens just outside the city. The centres are all in sheltered accommodation, 6 of which were purpose-built with funds from the Friends. The remainder are operated in rented accommodation. This year 124 children completed the pre-primary course and were supported to enrol in local primary schools or madrasa.

The project provides training in sewing and block-batik and hand embroidery. This enables 80 young people to acquire skills that they can use to provide financial support for themselves and their families. Computer training is provided to 40 students who learn MS word, MS Excel, MS power point and graphic design using photoshop software.

The project has an outreach team of

three people, who visit families door to door and organise courtyard meetings in the slum areas. The team assess needs and find those who would benefit most from the 80 allowances we provide to widows, the pre-primary schools and training courses. In addition, they help families get access to other local services including health provision. The team help families to get birth certificates for their children and this year a report with case studies of the difficulties faced by families was written and a useful discussion held with the local government officer in Sylhet about how the situation could be improved.

During the past year our Chair spent several months with the project and two of the other trustees visited in February. They reported back to our committee and supporters.

We continue to have a facebook page with 840 followers and produce a regular newsletter. We have a leaflet informing people about our work and a website, which we updated during the year.

Thank you to everyone who has donated and supported us this year. Next year we plan to continue with our on-line and in person fundraising. We will celebrate 100 years since the birth of our founder, Peter East. Please continue to support us to make a real difference to the lives of people living in need in the Khasdobir area.

Risk Assessment

The Trustees have considered the risks to which they may be exposed and have policies in place to manage these. We have appointed a lead trustee for safeguarding who has produced an aide memoir, which was used by trustees during their visit to the project.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that due regard has been given to the Charity Commissioners' guidance on public

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benefit. The work in Bangladesh, which we support, assists the very poorest people in the area.



This report and our accounts will be presented at our Meeting of Supporters on:

**Saturday July 1st 2023
10 am by zoom.**

Please contact us by email to confirm that you will attend and to request the zoom link to join the meeting.

khasdobir@btinternet.com

**For more news and pictures do please visit our website:
www.khasdobir.org.uk**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees on the unaudited financial statement of Friends of Khasdobir, Bangladesh (on Page 4)

I report on the accounts of Friends of Khasdobir, Bangladesh, to 31st March 2023

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, you consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (i) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
- (ii) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

P. D. Johnson

Robert Whowell & Partners

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND STATUTORY AUDITORS

78 Loughborough Road, Quorn, Leicestershire, LE12 8DX

FRIENDS OF KHASDOBIR: BANGLADESH**Charity No. 1185262****Accounts for the Year 1st April, 2022 to 31st March 2023**

	Present Year to 31/03/23	Last Full Year to 31/03/22
RECEIPTS	£	£
Donations from Individuals: Gift Aid Tax Recoverable	10,093.00	10,413.00
Donations from Individuals: Gift Aid Tax Not Recoverable	2,498.81	5,434.94
Fundraising Meals Income: Gift Aid Tax Recoverable	765.20	0.00
Fundraising Meals Income: Gift Aid Tax Not Recoverable	175.00	0.00
Individual Donations from Fund Raising: Gift Aid Tax Recoverable	1,915.00	610.00
Individual Donations from Fund Raising: Gift Aid Tax Not Recoverable	49.10	45.00
Donations from Groups, Toc H Branches and Other Organisations	1,615.50	1,872.50
Legacies	25,000.00	0.00
Interest from Charities Official Investment Fund (COIF) Deposit Account	113.19	1.14
Interest from Charities Official Investment Fund (COIF) Investment Account	5,823.92	6,389.69
Tax Recovered from HMR&C on Year's Gift Aidable Donations	3,090.61	4,217.78
TOTAL RECEIPTS	51,139.33	28,984.05
PAYMENTS		
Grant to Sylhet Jubo Academy in Bangladesh	57,769.00	58,504.50
Quarterly Newsletter Printing and Packing	296.22	236.90
Postage (Mainly Newsletters, but Other Letters also)	338.40	283.02
Meeting Room Hire	60.00	44.50
Trustee(s) Monitoring Visits to Bangladesh	4,303.41	0.00
Bank Charges for Transferring Money to SJA's Account in Sylhet	100.00	99.00
Miscellaneous	646.00	
TOTAL PAYMENTS	63,513.03	59,167.92
Surplus (- = Deficit)	-12,373.70	-30,183.87
BALANCES		
Balance Brought Forward	223,363.47	235,168.94
Investment Fund (Gain/Loss)	-7,374.65	18,378.40
Surplus or Deficit this year	-12,373.70	-30,183.87
Cumulative Surplus Carried Forward	203,615.12	223,363.47
Represented By:		
Barclays Bank Current Account	13,955.77	12,266.58
CCLA Charities Official Investment Fund (Deposit Account)	9,193.29	3,256.18
CCLA Charities Official Investment Fund (Investment Account)	180,466.06	207,840.71
Total Bank Balances	203,615.12	223,363.47

**Friends of Khasdobir Annual Report and Accounts adopted
By the Trustees on 17th August 2023**



**MIKE SHERRIFF
Chair of Trustees**



**Phil Watson
Hon Treasurer**

Friends of Khasdobir, Chapel cottage, Station Road, East Garston, Hungerford, Berkshire, RG17 7HF

