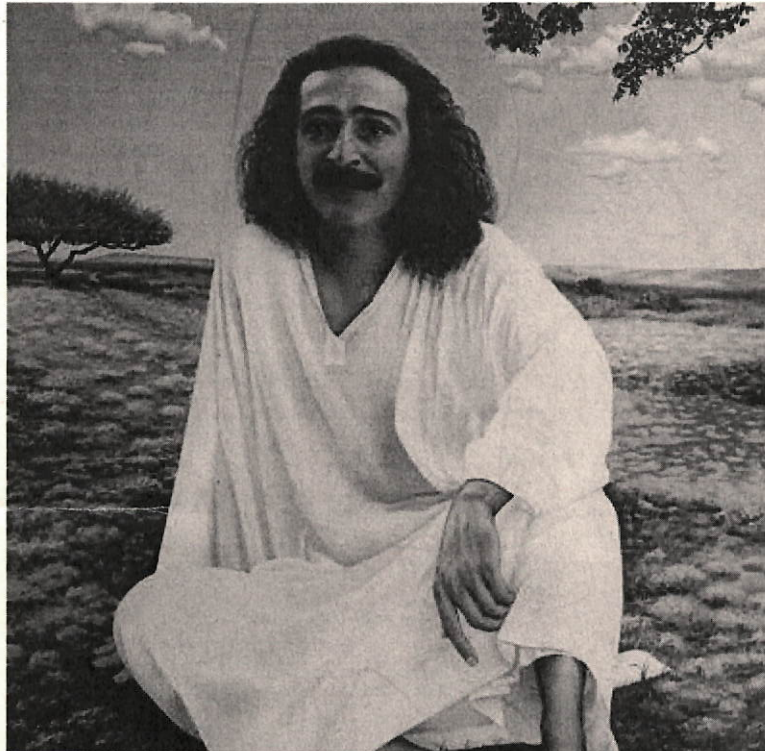


Annual Report to Members of the Meher Baba Association

(Friends of Meher Baba UK)

For the Period from November 2023 to October 2024



Meher Baba is the President in perpetuity of the Meher Baba Association (MBA). The MBA is registered as a charity and incorporated as Meher Baba Association Limited – a company limited by guarantee and owned by its members. There are currently nine Trustees of the Charity, who are elected by Members. The Trustees are also appointed as Directors of the Company.

The Trustees present this Annual Report to the Members on the MBA's activities covering the year from November 2023, with contributions from Members as well as Trustees. An abridged Statement of Income & Expenditure for the year ended 5th of April 2024 is contained within, and a full set of statutory financial statements will be forwarded to Members under separate cover.

Annual Report to Members of the Meher Baba Association

(Friends of Meher Baba UK)

For the Period from November 2023 to October 2024

Contents

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[Appendix: Abridged Statement of Income & Expenditure for Year Ended 5th April 2024]

Trustees

Paul Birchard; Barbara Freije; David Lee; Havovi Mahaluxmiwala; Sally Manders; Tanya Moller; Paul Ryder;
Ernest Saunders; Om Vasudeva.

A LETTER FROM HAVOVI MAHALUXMIWALA ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Friends, a few brief words to sum up the MBA's activities since the last AGM in November 2023...

The AGM in 2023 was followed in early December with the Christmas party organised and facilitated by Ellie Sullivan along with Kokila Gillett Khan and Tanya Moller. The Centre was festooned with twinkling fairy lights, a colourfully decorated Christmas tree stood in a corner, and as is the norm now, there was plenty of food and cake to add to the jollity of the occasion. There were Christmas carols and the ever popular 'pass the parcel' organised by Kokila. A big Thank you to everyone who made the Christmas party a success!

This year Amartithi fell on a Wednesday and Sally Manders kindly agreed to take a day off work to open the Centre and to welcome those who wished to be present at our Centre for Amartithi. As we all know, Sally opens the Centre every Monday from 3pm till 08.30pm, and our special thanks as always to Sally for making this happen.

On Sunday 25th February 2024 Baba's Birthday celebration included an auction of books, picture frames, Baba artefacts, ably conceived and organised by Shelagh Rowling. The auction was a great success with Paul Birchard proving to be an able auctioneer(!) as we collected a substantial amount to help towards the ongoing expenses of running the Centre. Thank you, Shelagh, for approaching the Board with the idea of holding an auction and working hard to make it a success.

One of the highlights of 2024 was a mini Sahavas over 2 weekends in July, again conceived and organised by Shelagh with support from the Board. Do read Shelagh's notes in this Report on the Sahavas, starting with a Dhuni on Friday 12th July evening, then the Sahavas on Saturday 6th and again Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July. Wonderful, joyous days spent with Baba's presence palpable. Many thanks to Shelagh for her sterling efforts in making this a success. It is my hope that the poetry workshop on Saturday 13th facilitated by Rosie Jackson for a limited number of persons and which took place in the Quiet Room, will be the first of many! Thank you, Rosie, for giving us a most wonderful, gentle meandering with our Baba thoughts; Baba reigning supreme in everyone's weird, wonderful and poignant poetry writing efforts, with His presence enveloping us in His Quiet Room.

As always, thanks are extended to David Lee for opening the Centre on the second Saturday of the month for whoever wanted to come along to share a quiet space for contemplation, or just to be with Baba at the Centre.

The Board's heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Peter Raymond who manages the webmail (Mailchimp) and sends out regular notices via our mailing list, and of course not forgetting Peter's role in maintaining the MBA website. Thank you, Peter, for continuing to support the Board.

A special thank you to Shelagh Rowling, acknowledging her great efforts over the past year and more, in sorting out the library of Baba books that are at the Centre into a coherent order for a lending library and a reading library. Shelagh has liaised with Sue, and has consulted Tanya throughout this task, for advice and clarification when necessary. Thank you, Shelagh, for your efforts and ongoing work with the Centre library.

Thank you to Ernest who as always tries his best to be on top of Centre maintenance and brings to the Board's attention urgent issues which need to be addressed.

One outcome of the ongoing maintenance of the Centre is the installation by ADT of a completely new fire and intruder alarm system to cover the basement and ground floors. Being mindful of looking after the Baba treasures that are in the Archive room and the Quiet Room and as the previous alarm system was causing problems, the Board opted to have one of the foremost security companies, ADT, to install the alarm system, albeit at a considerable cost. The Board would especially wish to acknowledge Barbara

Freije's persistent efforts in working with ADT over months, liaising with them with her many emails asking for clarifications, till finally the system was installed at the Centre in late spring, early summer.

Another urgent issue that Ernest brought to the Board's attention was incipient water ingress in the hallway at the entrance of the Basement. A surveyor's report was necessary to locate the cause of damp and water ingress in the Basement. The survey report clearly indicated that the front walkway leading to the ground floor entrance had to be made water proofed. This obviously entails major works i.e. ripping off the old tiling, laying down a waterproof membrane, making good any damage, repairs if any required, and then relaying with new tiles. Three quotes were received for this work, but the Builder chosen to carry out the work proved reluctant to answer essential queries raised by the Board, so we are now looking for another building contractor who could undertake this work.

Another possible expense in the new year is replacing the wooden sash window of the Archive room on the ground floor to make it watertight and airtight. Two quotes have been received for replacing the wooden window, one from a firm that specialises in replacing antique wooden windows; however, the Board's priority must be the work on the walkway, once another suitable building contractor is found.

For a detailed description of Archival work and related issues, please see Sue Chapman's contribution in the Annual Report.

14th September 2024 saw the book launch at the Baba Centre of 'Fred', the life stories of Fred Marks, and which saw Sue Chapman's three years of a labour of love come to fruition. At the book launch Sue gave a short introduction on what prompted her to take on this major task of writing a book on Fred Marks' life, the travails she faced locating documents, finding the people who had known Fred, asking them to share their stories and documents relating to Fred and his life. All 40 copies of the book published by Companion Books were snapped up at the launch and an order for more books has been sent to Companion Books.

As you can see from the summary of the Annual Accounts, there is still a substantial amount in the India Account (this is a separate bank account where donations for the Trust in India are paid), which cannot be transferred to the Trust in India due to the Indian Government's rules and regulations. We wrote to the donors explaining the situation in India and that they might consider stopping their donation for the Trust for the time being, and instead consider donating to the MBA itself, especially as we have major works to be carried out at the Centre and to help towards the increase in costs in maintaining the Centre.

Lastly, it is with great sadness and shock we acknowledge the passing of our dear Barbara's husband Freddie in mid-September. May his soul rest in eternal peace with his Maker.

Once again, the Board wishes to encourage the younger generation to step forward and consider giving their time, skills and energy to serve on the Board, especially if they have a skill set which would be an asset and help to the MBA and its Board.

Please do give this a serious thought, as the majority of the current Board are 'Senior Citizens' and cannot go on forever serving the UK Baba Family with their increasing age-related health problems!

Thank you for reading the Annual Report of the Meher Baba Association, UK. We hope to see you at the AGM and to see more new and old faces visiting your Baba Centre in London.

Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai

Havovi Mahaluxmiwala

For and on Behalf of the MBA Board

Centre Events

Christmas Party

Tanya Moller writes...

Our Annual Christmas Party 2023 was a popular event and around 30 people attended, this time it was celebrated on 9th December.

The day included a special, always special, film of Beloved Meher Baba. There was an opportunity to share a short reading from Baba or something seasonal or a poem. A very special shared meal was enjoyed by all around 1.00 p.m.

After lunch we held a festive raffle, with prizes suitable as small Christmas gifts, this was well received and raised some funds.

In the afternoon we sang carols and other Baba songs with live music, and a few surprises. This is always a joyful experience when everyone can join in and there were several children present who especially enjoyed the "pass the parcel" which followed and had been lovingly prepared with a Baba quote between every layer of Christmas paper, maybe there will be a box of chocolates in the middle.

Meher Baba's Prayers and Arti were said during the day. And the day ended with tea and cake. The Quiet Room was open all day for those who wanted some special time with Baba among the precious treasures of Meher Baba that are displayed, as well as a reference library of books.

Meher Baba's Birthday

Tanya Moller writes...

The Baba Birthday Party 2024 was a very joyful event at the London Meher Baba Centre, this year it coincided with the actual date of 25th February.

Ellie Sullivan hosted it with some creative ideas for keeping everyone busy. One of which was a display of drawings and paintings of Beloved by those attending, which were displayed around the room. A film was shown as people gathered and Arti prayers were said before lunch. The meal was a shared feast and as usual dear Baba provided generously.

Shelagh Rowling organised a big auction to raise some funds for the Centre, clearing out the cupboards and finding surplus books, some painting, framed photographs of Meher Baba and other items for the sale. The auction took place after lunch; Paul Birchard was a very effective auctioneer, and the event was conducted in a very lively atmosphere and several hundred pounds were raised.

After that we had an exciting "pass the parcel" and everyone present, approximately 35 people including several children look part and everyone was happy to receive a Baba quote and a lovely tiny bottle of perfume. This was followed by Arti with prayers and the Gujarati and Australian Artis sung followed by lively singing of favourite Baba songs. And then a delicious assortment of cakes was spread out for our enjoyments and the singing of Happy Birthday, before we all went home after a happy day.

Shelagh Rowling writes...

Baba's 130th birthday party 2024 included an auction of paintings and other artworks in aid of the London Centre's running costs. Alongside the auction was a stall of Baba photos, frames and prints for sale at affordable prices. These proved popular.

Auctioned items included original works some of which were donated by the artists themselves or created especially for the occasion. A huge thank you must go to all who so generously produced and donated items for the fundraising auction. The auction took place after lunch with Paul Birchard as MC. Bidding was swift, generous and done with humour.

With our Baba family coming together to give of their time, love, creativity and energy, the auction fundraiser at Baba's birthday party was a success.

Prague Anniversary

Sue Chapman writes...

To mark the Anniversary of Meher Baba's Prague automobile accident in May 1952, we held a dedicated gathering at the Centre where we showed the film 'The Greatest of My Sufferings' which was created by the Heartland Centre team. This was followed by reflections on the significance of the accident in Baba's work in the West, and specifically the role Mehera undertook in partaking in this suffering. If you missed this film, you can watch it here: <https://vimeo.com/521980981>

Sahavas

Shelagh Rowling writes...

This took place at the London Centre over two weekends at the start of July 2024 - Saturday 6th and both 13th and 14th. From the initial idea to the actual gatherings was a mere 3 months. People fell over themselves in wanting to help out and be part of it. Baba unleashed so much love.

The theme of the sahavas was "Creativity and Remembering Beloved Baba." Talks and workshops of music, poetry and art formed the framework of our gatherings, the main events being after lunch. Before lunch for about an hour however, various activities were available. A table for making prayer flags and block printing was a permanent feature. The first morning a video of Mike da Costa performing his heartwarming songs and poetry was played. The following Saturday Wendy Halsted ran a superb immersive music and movement session based on Baba's name. After lunch on the first Saturday, Alain Youell kindly opened the main proceedings speaking on 'New Age, New Page'; essentially about what creativity is, and how it is linked to intuition and Baba. Different cultures (including our own personal ones) and every action and creative action, become a vehicle for Baba to be present in our lives, for self and Self-expression. A natural means of remembering Him, of making Him our constant companion.

Almost as a warmup to the second weekend, there was a Dhuni on Friday 12th evening. It was the 90th anniversary of Baba's visit to the Fallenfluh in Switzerland and a short account was read. Paul Birchard then provided the music and Sally Manders the soup.

The second Saturday saw Rosie Jackson's poetry workshop entitled 'How He Loves Us' use the Quiet Room for the afternoon. An absorbing poetry recital took place after tea too. The whole poetry experience was very well received and heart opening. Some of the poetry offerings will appear in the next newsletter. As an alternative in the basement there was a Music Programme - Biddu, Hilla Talwar, Wendy Halsted, Stephanie Edwards and Kalyan Gillett created an atmosphere that was as beautiful as it was heartfelt and Babaful. Others too came and were moved to perform - a true community. I understand that later there were many requests for more music at the centre.

On the third and final day, Jane Adams talked about her life of drawing Meher Baba, of how the images choose her, and of her creative experience. Slides of many dozens of her drawings were shown during the talk. After tea whoever wished to could have a go at drawing for themselves with Jane as a guide. Jane has kindly made the pdf of this talk available online and a recording of it is also underway.

Running as a thread through the sahavas were music and poetry such as quotes from Bhau's as yet unpublished ghazals, and music at Arti each day. The Quiet Room was well visited, the garden sat in, and the lunches and teas whether catered or potluck were appreciated. The time, care and attention by so many to make the sahavas a success simply shows how Baba is reaching out through us and drawing us all to Him.

Book Launch

Sue Chapman writes...

At time of writing this, *Fred*, the biography of Fred Marks, is ready for, or has been released by Companion Books. Thank you, Sevn McCauley and the Beads on One String Foundation, for their support for this project. So, we are now able to scan and upload Fred's UK docs, so we have a complete digital record of his life. And there is more and still yet more to do. We would welcome tech savvy help for a number of future projects.

[Edit: *Fred* was launched on the 14th of September at the Centre and a write-up will appear in the forthcoming Newsletter]

Centre Openings

In addition to the events held at the Centre, it was also open on most Mondays during the daytime, as well as selected weekend days throughout the year.

Weekend Openings

David Lee writes...

It is simply a time for people to come and enjoy the space of the Baba Centre and be with Baba and each other in whatever way evolves. no agenda or program is set. The opening is for an afternoon from 1 to 5. Tea and biscuits are provided. We can sit quietly with Baba, share stories, watch a film, respectfully and sensitively reflect and discuss topics that are of interest.

I feel we have a responsibility to keep the centre open. To keep it safe, well looked after and to provide a space for people to feel safe together in Baba's love.

The Centre is a place to store archival material and process archival material. It is a venue for speakers to deliver talks and mainly for people to gather in whatever way they feel comfortable. It is a space to celebrate and enjoy our relationship with Meher Baba.

Monday Openings

Sally Manders writes...

- o First, I will have a cursory look around to check for leaks or identifying issues.
- o I will sweep the front stairs if needed.

I will do the following during the opening hours:-

- o Sweep and dust the basement flat.
- o Prepare a cooked meal.
- o Wash kitchen floor.
- o Will tidy garden weather permitting.
- o Once a month I will read the gas and electricity meters. Then send readings to Om who pays the monthly bill.
- o Check phone messages.
- o Check supplies of hand wash and sugar, tea, coffee etc.
- o Make visitors feel welcome.
- o A meal is available each Monday for any visitors.
- o I do sit and chat with Baba people and do odd jobs around the Centre.

Special thanks should go to Shelagh for cleaning the Ground floor flat and liaising with Sue doing Archive work.

Centre Archive

Sue Chapman writes...

It is a year since we received a generous personal donation for Archival Work in the UK and though it would be great to say we had achieved all our goals, we are still moving forward.

Last year, with the help of Maria Radoje, we prepared a display in the Quiet Room of beautiful items gifted to the Association by Hilla Talwar. They have provoked much joy and interest. Thank you Hilla! We well know everyone likes to see Baba's coat and it will be back soon after a brief interim display, we are spoilt for choice, and don't want items to remain 'hidden'.

In the Spring, with Martin and Christine Cook's help, we installed a new computer specifically for creating and storing a database of historical film, photo and document Archives. Martin and Chris uploaded all MBA's film and photo archives onto the hard drive for future research and viewing purposes. Some photos can be used unrestricted in our own publications, others need permissions, so access to the Archival database will remain password protected.

We purchased a new storage cabinet for media. Our existing film and photo collection has now been rehoused. We 'put out a call' for private media recordings but have had no response thus far! We know there is precious material out there in your homes that needs to be captured before it is lost forever. Examples would be audio or video and photos of Mandali visits to UK shores, visiting speakers like Ivy Duce, Adele Wolkin or Tom and Dorothy Hopkinson, etc. Shelagh Rowling has been gathering 'found' items at the Centre and is cataloguing these ready for digitising. We will pay to have your media transferred and all original copies will be returned to you. Please consider this a reminder. If you already have digital copies, please send a copy file to us to upload and should you have time to help review old audio cassettes of Baba talks at home please contact suchapman@hotmail.com.

Centre Library

Shelagh Rowling writes...

After Covid, in early 2022, work on sorting out and cataloguing boxes of donated books started under the auspices of the archive.

It was noted that some books that were new to us could be used in the existing libraries in the Quiet Room. An updated catalogue of all library books was therefore required to integrate the new books. Both reference and lending sections grew as a result. The processing of the many stored books is continuing even today. A few items find their way to the archive, and some are shelved in the library.

In July 2023 the Beads on one String project / group kindly funded a bookcase for the basement. This now houses the Lending Library which is quite well used. Within it there is a handy section specifically for 'new to Baba' people. Other sections are: Biography of Baba, Books by Baba / primarily of Baba's words, Books by or about the Mandali, Books by or about others, plus Poetry and Music. Up to two books can be borrowed at a time, for up to two months.

The Reference library remains upstairs for people to use in the Quiet Room. Glass doors will be put on the cabinets there to protect both books and the precious archival exhibits in the room.

Centre Bookstore

Tanya Moller writes...

Sale of books, calendars and CDs has been steady through the year, thanks to several special events, which boosted the number of sales; at the same time, I have been careful not to add too many titles to our stock, but to order new titles for which I thought there was a market. One of the best new books in my experience was Bal Natsu's final work: "Intimate Times with Meher Baba at Guru Prasad". Bal himself made copious notes, during this period in the mid-1960s, and also gathered as much as he could from other Mandali members and devotees who were present. Baba had many interesting conversations and often gave short discourses and explanations, and there seemed to me quite a few unique passages. The whole book is a treasure trove of reminiscences. I can order more copies on request.

Once again sending out 60 Baba calendars kept us busy in Autumn with writing invoices, packaging and trips to the Post Office.

If anyone feels drawn to this type of work for Baba, please let us know, it is not necessary to live in London, I have lived near the South Coast all the time that I have been Book Walla for 25 years. All enquiries welcome.

Centre Care and Maintenance

Ernest Saunders writes...

1. When it comes to caring for the Centre and maintaining its efficient running, take note of the various Services involved.
 - o ADT Intruder and Fire Alarms
 - o Morgan Fire Protection
 - o West London Plumbing
 - o PAT Service
 - o Thames Water - Anti Flood System
2. November '23 we dealt with a serious water leak into the Basement Hallway. Luckily on first view the damage of the Fabric in the Hallway was not extensive, but still will need assessing. The cause was a penetration of rainwater from above through the ceiling of the walkway on the Ground Floor. To assess the potential damage MBA engaged a Surveyor, David Cooper Associates, that produced a Report that proposed remedial work which MBA are currently considering quotations for.
3. In February '24 painting work on the front elevation was carried out, plus fixing an extra drainpipe to the right of the building.
4. A noteworthy mention of a Pressure Release Valve replacement to the Boiler (water heater) was necessary to extend its life!
5. In early 2024 a new ADT Intruder & Fire Alarm System was installed, so now the MBA's Centre has brand new security systems.
6. Again, considering the condition of the Archive Room window. Replacing it in its entirety, that is reproducing its Victorian elegance. As the room's purpose/use constitutes strict adherence to "Atmospheric Protocol". Deliberations continue!

Centre Stewardship

New Life Management Ltd (NLM) is the freeholder of 228 Hammersmith Grove, the building in which the Centre is housed. The MBA owns two-thirds of the shares in NLM, together with the leasehold for the two floors that the Centre occupies. Richard Cork and Tanya Moller are Directors of NLM. They ensure that the legal and compliance requirements of the company are met, as well as monitoring and resolving any issues affecting the fabric of the building.

Richard Cork writes...

The Annual General Meeting took place in July 2024 and was conducted online by unanimous consent.

The Directors for 2023-24 were Matthew Evans, Tanya Moller and Richard Cork, who will all continue for a further 12 months.

It was agreed that Matthew Evans be reappointed as NLM Secretary, and that Richard Cork be reappointed as NLM Chair.

Newsletter

Paul Birchard writes...

It continues to be an inspiration and a pleasure to edit the Newsletter "To the Friends of Meher Baba", three times annually, for all the MBA's members and friends.

Over the past year, we have covered the group gatherings and Sahavases, and events recent and further removed going back to the 1930's, each and every one showing the Beloved's focused, loving care and attention, His intimate advice and encouragement, Meher Baba's life and work continue to fascinate and enrich our own, and the FRIENDS OF MEHER BABA is dedicated to bringing you lively and thoughtful accounts and reflections of it all.

Bursary

In line with our governing Articles of Association, the MBA is tasked with providing support for people who may wish to be involved in pilgrimage, sahasas or other spiritual learning activities connected with Meher Baba's life.

The maximum amount we can allocate in respect of a single request is £100. The successful applicant must first complete a form for assessment, then ultimately provide receipts for our accountant with details of how the funding was spent. Applications are treated in confidence. For more information, please see the MBA website.

Finances

[See Appendix]

The Association relies almost entirely on gifts and donations to operate and maintain our London Centre, and to stage events and openings. For the financial year ended 5th April 2024, we received total donations of £16,616 from various sources, and the MBA Board expresses its gratitude.

The procurement and sale of books and videos, which are a key element of the MBA's services to Members and to help anyone else interested in learning about Meher Baba, are carefully managed to generate a small surplus that contributes to the running costs of the Centre. This year sales were £2,121.

Subscriptions to the Newsletter help towards the cost of printing hard copies. These subscriptions are renewed annually, and this year brought in £600.

Overall, there was a deficit, with expenditure £3,757 more than income. This was due to the increased running costs of the Centre which have been affected by inflation, together with repairs and renewals that can fluctuate year-by-year. However, the control of finances remains a primary focus for the Trustees, and the cash at bank was £56,773 at the year-end. This would cover nearly three years' worth of "normal" operating costs at the Centre in the absence of any income, but the MBA cannot take a complacent stance as there are potentially significant "abnormal" one-off costs that come with a property the size and age of the Centre. Whilst great care is taken to insure against risks, not all exposure can necessarily be covered, particularly dilapidations.

The picture is stable currently, but the financial dynamics highlight the continued reliance on gifts and donations as referenced earlier, and importantly the substantial part that HMRC's Gift Aid tax reclaim scheme plays. For a UK taxpayer, the value of their donation increases by 25% upon the completion of a simple form and submission to the MBA who will then do the rest. Please contact us to arrange completion of said form.

Separately to all of this, the MBA manages "Restricted Funds" which are monies donated for specific and exclusive purposes. This year, the MBA continued to "ring fence" the donations that are made for onward transmission to India and the Meher Baba Trust. Currently there are Indian Government restrictions on international transfers, and monies are therefore still held in a dedicated bank account until the situation is resolved. The balance at the year-end was £9,166. Given this hiatus, should any donor prefer repayment, or redirection of monies to the MBA for general use, please contact us.

Since last year, a dedicated fund has also been set up for the Archive with a single seed donation of £20,216. At the financial year-end this Restricted Fund stood at £19,700.

The Board would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to Om Vasudeva who continues in the key role of Treasurer, maintaining our bookkeeping and compliance, as well as sharing banking duties with Tanya Moller to whom we also give thanks.

Aims for 2025

- o Ensure that people wanting to communicate with the Board are welcome to do so by any means of communication available. The Board is open to any suggestions or constructive criticisms.
- o Link the regional Baba Centres and Baba lovers outside London, encouraging them to take responsibility for arranging Companionship days - either by Zoom link or in person, using the London Centre if they wish to do so.
- o Live streaming of events from the Baba Centre to achieve better communication with the world-wide Baba family.
- o Acknowledge the contributions of many in our Baba family for the success of the MBA Newsletter.
- o Endeavour to post on social media, relevant webmail that Peter Raymond sends out, to keep the wider Baba Family informed.
- o Celebrate our UK Baba history; to remember and record past Baba lovers at the Baba Centre.
- o Connect with other Centres in Europe so we know of their celebrations and Baba events.
- o Help with outreach activities and events in UK in practical ways including sending books for roadshows and monetary support.



Appendix

Abridged Statement of Income & Expenditure

For the Year Ended 5th April 2024

| | <u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u> | <u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u> | <u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| £ | | | |
| Income | | | |
| Donations & Legacies | 16,616 | 22,811 | 39,427 |
| Trading inc. Bookshop & Newsletter | 2,822 | 0 | 2,822 |
| Other | 665 | 0 | 665 |
| Total Income | <u>20,103</u> | <u>22,811</u> | <u>42,914</u> |
| Expenditure | | | |
| Trading inc. Bookshop & Newsletter | 2,524 | 0 | 2,524 |
| Charitable Activities | 21,336 | 516 | 21,852 |
| Total Expenditure | <u>23,860</u> | <u>516</u> | <u>24,376</u> |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | <u>(3,757)</u> | <u>22,295</u> | <u>18,538</u> |

Balance Sheet Items

@ 5th April 2024

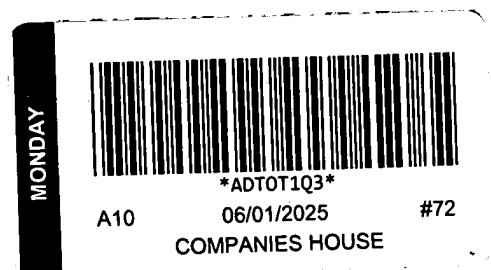
| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Cash at Bank (£) | <u>56,773</u> | <u>28,866</u> | <u>85,639</u> |
| <u>Restricted Funds (£)</u> | | | |
| India - Meher Baba Trust Donations | | 9,166 | |
| Archive Fund | | 19,700 | |
| Total | | <u>28,866</u> | |

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1038022
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 273632

Meher Baba Association Limited
Company Limited by Guarantee
Unaudited Financial Statements
5 April 2024

GORDON & CO

Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors
4 Bloomsbury Square
London
WC1A 2RP



Meher Baba Association Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 5 April 2024

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Meher Baba Association Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 5 April 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 5 April 2024.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name Meher Baba Association Limited

Charity registration number 273632

Company registration number 1038022

Principal office and registered office Flat 1
228 Hammersmith Grove
London
W6 7HG

The trustees

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| R Cork | (Resigned 1 July 2023) |
| O Vasudeva | |
| B Freije | |
| T Moller | |
| S Chapman | (Resigned 1 July 2023) |
| H Mahaluxmiwala | |
| D Lee | |
| J Baker | (Resigned 10 September 2023) |
| P Birchard | |
| E Saunders | |
| S Manders | |
| P Ryder | |

Independent examiner John Gordon FCA
4 Bloomsbury Square
London
WC1A 2RP

Meher Baba Association Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 5 April 2024

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was incorporated on 12 January 1972 and obtained charitable status on 23 June 1977. It is governed by the Association's Articles of Association.

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by Articles of Association in line with current legislation. The directors of the company are also Trustees of the charity.

A finance committee has been established and we continue to look at ways to manage the charity's money and raise additional funds. Proposals for limited and occasional hiring out of the basement of the premises have been drafted and discussed at our AGM.

The Trustees have agreed a policy for providing funding, in exceptional circumstances, for those requiring financial assistance in attending events/activities etc relating to Meher Baba and setting out the conditions and requirements relating to such funding.

There have been no other material changes in the policies of the charity during the year. The funds of the charity have been applied in pursuit of its objectives and in accordance with any specific requirements of the fund providers.

Management

The Trustees manage the overall business of the charity, with the day to day activities being supplemented by outsourced resources as necessary.

Investment Policy

Under the Articles of Association the Trustees have the power to invest monies not immediately required for the furtherance of the Association's objects as they think fit. The Trustees' policy is to maximise income within a low risk environment.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the charity to maintain unrestricted funds, which includes the free services of the charity, at a level that provides sufficient funds to meet the ongoing operating expenditure.

Risk Management

The charity continues to examine the major strategic business and operational risks that it faces and to develop and ultimately implement systems to mitigate any exposure.

Objectives and activities

The charity's objectives and principal activities continue to be that of extending and furthering the spiritual guidance given by Meher Baba.

Meher Baba Association Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 5 April 2024

Strategic report

The Trustees continue to oversee the Association's operations, consistent with our Articles of Association and our agreed Mission Statement.

The Trustees now number nine in total and are appointed as Directors of the Company. Much of the focus of the Board is on the principal asset which is the Centre at 228 Hammersmith Grove. Optimizing the use of the Centre, and the maintenance thereof, remain key objectives.

Achievements and performance

The Board produces an Annual Report for Members detailing activities and decisions taken during the year.

Notably on the financial front, the Association received a significant donation during the year to support its work on the Archive, and those monies are held in Restricted Funds.

The Trustees are actively involved with the necessary oversight of the New Life Management Company Limited (NLM), which manages the building where we have our Centre, and in which we hold a majority share. Two Members, including a Trustee, are appointed to act as Directors of NLM.

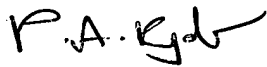
Financial review

Results and business review

The results for the year are as set out in the annexed Accounts.

The Trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charity during the year and with the position as at 5 April 2024. The Trustees consider that the charity is in a strong position to continue such activities as may be possible during the coming year, and that the assets of the charity are adequate to fulfil its obligations.

The trustees' annual report and the strategic report were approved on 16 November 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



P Ryder
Trustee

Meher Baba Association Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Meher Baba Association Limited

Year ended 5 April 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Meher Baba Association Limited ('the charity') for the year ended 5 April 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.



John Gordon FCA
Independent Examiner

4 Bloomsbury Square
London
WC1A 2RP

16 November 2024

Meher Baba Association Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 5 April 2024

| | | Unrestricted funds | 2024 Restricted funds | Total funds | 2023 Total funds |
|---|------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| | Note | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Income and endowments | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 5 | 16,616 | 22,811 | 39,427 | 14,994 |
| Other trading activities | 6 | 2,822 | – | 2,822 | 2,950 |
| Investment income | 7 | 665 | – | 665 | 125 |
| Total income | | <u>20,103</u> | <u>22,811</u> | <u>42,914</u> | <u>18,069</u> |
| Expenditure | | | | | |
| Expenditure on raising funds: | | | | | |
| Costs of other trading activities | 8 | 2,524 | – | 2,524 | 2,610 |
| Expenditure on charitable activities | 9,10 | 21,336 | 516 | 21,851 | 14,395 |
| Total expenditure | | <u>23,860</u> | <u>516</u> | <u>24,375</u> | <u>17,005</u> |
| Net income and net movement in funds | | <u>(3,757)</u> | <u>22,295</u> | <u>18,539</u> | <u>1,064</u> |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 132,011 | 6,571 | 138,582 | 137,518 |
| Total funds carried forward | | <u>128,254</u> | <u>28,866</u> | <u>157,120</u> | <u>138,582</u> |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 8 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

Meher Baba Association Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

5 April 2024

| | Note | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|---|------|----------------|----------------|
| Fixed assets | | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | 16 | 69,703 | 70,670 |
| Investments | 17 | 2 | 2 |
| | | <u>69,705</u> | <u>70,672</u> |
| Current assets | | | |
| Stocks | 18 | 2,604 | 3,064 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 85,639 | 65,638 |
| | | <u>88,243</u> | <u>68,702</u> |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 19 | 828 | 792 |
| Net current assets | | <u>87,415</u> | <u>67,910</u> |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | <u>157,120</u> | <u>138,582</u> |
| Net assets | | <u>157,120</u> | <u>138,582</u> |
| Funds of the charity | | | |
| Restricted funds | | 28,866 | 6,571 |
| Unrestricted funds | | 128,254 | 132,011 |
| Total charity funds | 20 | <u>157,120</u> | <u>138,582</u> |

For the year ending 5 April 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The statement of financial position
continues on the following page.

The notes on pages 8 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

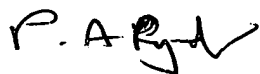
Meher Baba Association Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position *(continued)*

5 April 2024

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 16 November 2024, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



P Ryder
Trustee

The notes on pages 8 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

Meher Baba Association Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 5 April 2024

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Flat 1, 228 Hammersmith Grove, London, W6 7HG.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Meher Baba Association Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 5 April 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Operating leases

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line basis.

Meher Baba Association Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 5 April 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

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

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Long leasehold property | - | straight line over 96 years |
| Fixtures and fittings | - | 15% on written down value |

Investments

Unlisted equity investments are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently measured at fair value. If fair value cannot be reliably measured, assets are measured at cost less impairment.

Listed investments are measured at fair value with changes in fair value being recognised in income or expenditure.

Investments in associates

Investments in associates accounted for in accordance with the cost model are recorded at cost less any accumulated impairment losses.

Investments in associates accounted for in accordance with the fair value model are initially recorded at the transaction price. At each reporting date, the investments are measured at fair value, with changes in fair value taken through income or expenditure. Where it is impracticable to measure fair value reliably without undue cost or effort, the cost model will be adopted.

Dividends and other distributions received from the investment are recognised as income without regard to whether the distributions are from accumulated profits of the associate arising before or after the date of acquisition.

Investments in joint ventures

Investments in jointly controlled entities accounted for in accordance with the cost model are recorded at cost less any accumulated impairment losses.

Meher Baba Association Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 5 April 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Investments in joint ventures *(continued)*

Investments in jointly controlled entities accounted for in accordance with the fair value model are initially recorded at the transaction price. At each reporting date, the investments are measured at fair value, with changes in fair value taken through income or expenditure. Where it is impracticable to measure fair value reliably without undue cost or effort, the cost model will be adopted.

Dividends and other distributions received from the investment are recognised as income without regard to whether the distributions are from accumulated profits of the joint venture arising before or after the date of acquisition.

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Stocks

Stocks are measured at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing the stock to its present location and condition.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Meher Baba Association Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 5 April 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

4. Limited by guarantee

The charitable company is a company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. In the event of the charitable company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charitable company.

5. Donations and legacies

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2024 £ |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Donations | | | |
| Donations | 9,844 | 22,811 | 32,655 |
| Gift aid | 1,866 | — | 1,866 |
| Other donations and legacies | | | |
| Raffle collections | 198 | — | 198 |
| Sahavas | 4,708 | — | 4,708 |
| | <u>16,616</u> | <u>22,811</u> | <u>39,427</u> |

Meher Baba Association Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 5 April 2024

5. Donations and legacies *(continued)*

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2023 £ |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Donations | | | |
| Donations | 5,932 | 3,927 | 9,859 |
| Gift aid | 2,697 | — | 2,697 |
| Other donations and legacies | | | |
| Raffle collections | 63 | — | 63 |
| Sahavas | 2,375 | — | 2,375 |
| | <u>11,067</u> | <u>3,927</u> | <u>14,994</u> |

6. Other trading activities

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2024 £ | Unrestricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2023 £ |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sale of books and videos | 2,121 | 2,121 | 2,345 | 2,345 |
| Sales of newsletters | 600 | 600 | 605 | 605 |
| Membership | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| Royalties | 99 | 99 | — | — |
| | <u>2,822</u> | <u>2,822</u> | <u>2,950</u> | <u>2,950</u> |

7. Investment income

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2024 £ | Unrestricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2023 £ |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bank interest receivable | 665 | 665 | 125 | 125 |

8. Costs of other trading activities

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2024 £ | Unrestricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2023 £ |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Costs of other trading activities | 2,524 | 2,524 | 2,610 | 2,610 |

Meher Baba Association Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 5 April 2024

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2024 £ |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cost of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects | 6,530 | – | 6,530 |
| Management and administration | 13,978 | 516 | 14,493 |
| Support costs | 828 | – | 828 |
| | <u>21,336</u> | <u>516</u> | <u>21,851</u> |

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2023 £ |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cost of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects | 3,614 | – | 3,614 |
| Management and administration | 9,989 | – | 9,989 |
| Support costs | 792 | – | 792 |
| | <u>14,395</u> | <u>–</u> | <u>14,395</u> |

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

| | Activities undertaken directly £ | Support costs £ | Total funds 2024 £ | Total fund 2023 £ |
|--|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cost of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects | 6,530 | – | 6,530 | 3,614 |
| Management and administration | 14,493 | – | 14,493 | 9,989 |
| Governance costs | – | 828 | 828 | 792 |
| | <u>21,023</u> | <u>828</u> | <u>21,851</u> | <u>14,395</u> |

11. Analysis of grants

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Grants to institutions | | |
| Grants payable | – | 1,000 |
| Total grants | <u>–</u> | <u>1,000</u> |

Meher Baba Association Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 5 April 2024

12. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Depreciation of tangible fixed assets | 1,694 | 1,688 |
| Operating lease rentals | 78 | 70 |

13. Independent examination fees

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Fees payable to the independent examiner for: Independent examination of the financial statements | 828 | 792 |

14. Staff costs

The charity does not have any employees in the current or prior financial year.

15. Trustee remuneration and expenses

The Trustees did not receive any emoluments during the year. The total amount reimbursed to Trustees for travel and parking during the year amounted to £393 (2023: £Nil).

16. Tangible fixed assets

| | Long leasehold property £ | Fixtures and fittings £ | Total £ |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Cost | | | |
| At 6 April 2023 | 95,858 | 14,841 | 110,699 |
| Additions | – | 727 | 727 |
| At 5 April 2024 | <u>95,858</u> | <u>15,568</u> | <u>111,426</u> |
| Depreciation | | | |
| At 6 April 2023 | 29,085 | 10,944 | 40,029 |
| Charge for the year | 1,000 | 694 | 1,694 |
| At 5 April 2024 | <u>30,085</u> | <u>11,638</u> | <u>41,723</u> |
| Carrying amount | | | |
| At 5 April 2024 | <u>65,773</u> | <u>3,930</u> | <u>69,703</u> |
| At 5 April 2023 | <u>66,773</u> | <u>3,897</u> | <u>70,670</u> |

Meher Baba Association Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 5 April 2024

17. Investments

| | Other investments £ |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cost or valuation | |
| At 6 April 2023 | 2 |
| Additions | — |
| At 5 April 2024 | <u>2</u> |
| Impairment | |
| At 6 April 2023 and 5 April 2024 | — |
| Carrying amount | |
| At 5 April 2024 | <u>2</u> |
| At 5 April 2023 | <u>2</u> |

All investments shown above are held at valuation.

18. Stocks

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Finished goods and goods for resale | <u>2,604</u> | <u>3,064</u> |

19. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Accruals and deferred income | <u>828</u> | <u>792</u> |

20. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

| | At 6 April 2023 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | At 5 April 2024 £ |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| General funds | <u>132,011</u> | <u>20,103</u> | <u>(23,860)</u> | <u>128,254</u> |

| | At 6 April 2022 £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | At 5 April 2023 £ |
|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| General funds | <u>134,874</u> | <u>14,142</u> | <u>(17,005)</u> | <u>132,011</u> |

Meher Baba Association Limited

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 5 April 2024

20. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

| | At 6 April 2023 | Income | Expenditure | At 5 April 2024 |
|---------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| AMBPPCT | 6,571 | 2,595 | – | 9,166 |
| Archive | – | 20,216 | (516) | 19,700 |
| | <u>6,571</u> | <u>22,811</u> | <u>(516)</u> | <u>28,866</u> |

| | At 6 April 2022 | Income | Expenditure | At 5 April 2023 |
|---------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| AMBPPCT | 2,644 | 3,927 | – | 6,571 |
| Archive | – | – | – | – |
| | <u>2,644</u> | <u>3,927</u> | <u>–</u> | <u>6,571</u> |

The AMBPPCT fund relates to donations received specifically to help fund projects that are under the auspices of The Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charity Trust (AMBPPCT) based in Ahmednagar in India. The donations are classified separately from unrestricted funds.

The Archive fund relates to donations received specifically to help the charity maintain and manage the charity's archives of Meher Baba. The donations are classified separately from unrestricted funds.

21. Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Total Funds 2024 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Tangible fixed assets | 69,703 | – | 69,703 |
| Investments | 2 | – | 2 |
| Current assets | 59,377 | 28,866 | 88,243 |
| Creditors less than 1 year | (828) | – | (828) |
| Net assets | <u>128,254</u> | <u>28,866</u> | <u>157,120</u> |

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Total Funds 2023 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Tangible fixed assets | 70,670 | – | 70,670 |
| Investments | 2 | – | 2 |
| Current assets | 62,131 | 6,571 | 68,702 |
| Creditors less than 1 year | (792) | – | (792) |
| Net assets | <u>132,011</u> | <u>6,571</u> | <u>138,582</u> |

Annual Report to Members of the Meher Baba Association
(Friends of Meher Baba UK)
For the Period from November 2023 to October 2024



Meher Baba is the President in perpetuity of the Meher Baba Association (MBA). The MBA is registered as a charity and incorporated as Meher Baba Association Limited – a company limited by guarantee and owned by its members. There are currently nine Trustees of the Charity, who are elected by Members. The Trustees are also appointed as Directors of the Company.

The Trustees present this Annual Report to the Members on the MBA's activities covering the year from November 2023, with contributions from Members as well as Trustees. An abridged statement of financial position as at the 5th of April 2024 is also contained within, and a full set of financial statements will be provided to all Members under separate cover.

Annual Report to Members of the Meher Baba Association

(Friends of Meher Baba UK)

For the Period from November 2023 to October 2024

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2. Centre Events
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Appx. Abridged Statement of Income & Expenditure for y/e 5th April 2024

Trustees

Paul Birchard; Barbara Freije; David Lee; Havovi Mahaluxmiwala; Sally Manders; Tanya Moller; Paul Ryder; Ernest Saunders; Om Vasudeva.

A LETTER FROM HAVOVI MAHALUXMIWALA ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Friends, a few brief words to sum up the MBA's activities since the last AGM in November 2023...

The AGM in 2023 was followed in early December with the Christmas party organised and facilitated by Ellie Sullivan along with Kokila Gillett Khan and Tanya Moller. The Centre was festooned with twinkling fairy lights, a colourfully decorated Christmas tree stood in a corner, and as is the norm now, there was plenty of food and cake to add to the jollity of the occasion. There were Christmas carols and the ever popular 'pass the parcel' organised by Kokila. A big Thank you to everyone who made the Christmas party a success!

This year Amartithi fell on a Wednesday and Sally Manders kindly agreed to take a day off work to open the Centre and to welcome those who wished to be present at our Centre for Amartithi. As we all know, Sally opens the Centre every Monday from 3pm till 08.30pm, and our special thanks as always to Sally for making this happen.

On Sunday 25th February 2024 Baba's Birthday celebration included an auction of books, picture frames, Baba artefacts, ably conceived and organised by Shelagh Rowling. The auction was a great success with Paul Birchard proving to be an able auctioneer(!) as we collected a substantial amount to help towards the ongoing expenses of running the Centre. Thank you, Shelagh, for approaching the Board with the idea of holding an auction and working hard to make it a success.

One of the highlights of 2024 was a mini Sahavas over 2 weekends in July, again conceived and organised by Shelagh with support from the Board. Do read Shelagh's notes in this Report on the Sahavas, starting with a Dhuni on Friday 12th July evening, then the Sahavas on Saturday 6th and again Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July. Wonderful, joyous days spent with Baba's presence palpable. Many thanks to Shelagh for her sterling efforts in making this a success.

It is my hope that the poetry workshop on Saturday 13th facilitated by Rosie Jackson for a limited number of persons and which took place in the Quiet Room, will be the first of many! Thank you, Rosie, for giving us a most wonderful, gentle meandering with our Baba thoughts; Baba reigning supreme in everyone's weird, wonderful and poignant poetry writing efforts, with His presence enveloping us in His Quiet Room.

As always, thanks are extended to David Lee for opening the Centre on the second Saturday of the month for whoever wanted to come along to share a quiet space for contemplation, or just to be with Baba at the Centre.

The Board's heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Peter Raymond who manages the webmail (Mailchimp) and sends out regular notices via our mailing list, and of course not forgetting Peter's role in maintaining the MBA website. Thank you, Peter, for continuing to support the Board.

A special thank you to Shelagh Rowling, acknowledging her great efforts over the past year and more, in sorting out the library of Baba books that are at the Centre into a coherent order for a lending library and a reading library. Shelagh has liaised with Sue, and has consulted Tanya throughout this task, for advice and clarification when necessary. Thank you, Shelagh, for your efforts and ongoing work with the Centre library.

Thank you to Ernest who as always tries his best to be on top of Centre maintenance and brings to the Board's attention urgent issues which need to be addressed.

One outcome of the ongoing maintenance of the Centre is the installation by ADT of a completely new fire and intruder alarm system to cover the basement and ground floors. Being mindful of looking after the Baba treasures that are in the Archive room and the Quiet Room and as the previous alarm system was causing problems, the Board opted to have one of the foremost security companies, ADT, to install the alarm system, albeit at a considerable cost. The Board would especially wish to acknowledge Barbara Freije's persistent efforts in working with ADT over months, liaising with them with her many emails asking for clarifications, till finally the system was installed at the Centre in late spring, early summer.

Another urgent issue that Ernest brought to the Board's attention was incipient water ingress in the hallway at the entrance of the Basement. A surveyor's report was necessary to locate the cause of damp and water ingress in the Basement. The survey report clearly indicated that the front walkway leading to the ground floor entrance had to be made water proofed. This obviously entails major works i.e. ripping off the old tiling, laying down a waterproof membrane, making good any damage, repairs if any required, and then relaying with new tiles. Three quotes were received for this work, but the Builder chosen to carry out the work proved reluctant to answer essential queries raised by the Board, so we are now looking for another building contractor who could undertake this work.

Another possible expense in the new year is replacing the wooden sash window of the Archive room on the ground floor to make it watertight and airtight. Two quotes have been received for replacing the wooden window, one from a firm that specialises in replacing antique wooden windows; however, the Board's priority must be the work on the walkway, once another suitable building contractor is found.

For a detailed description of Archival work and related issues, please see Sue Chapman's contribution in the Annual Report.

14th September 2024 saw the book launch at the Baba Centre of 'Fred', the life stories of Fred Marks, and which saw Sue Chapman's three years of a labour of love come to fruition. At the book launch Sue gave a short introduction on what prompted her to take on this major task of writing a book on Fred Marks' life, the travails she faced locating documents, finding the people who had known Fred, asking them to share their stories and documents relating to Fred and his life. All 40 copies of the book published by Companion Books were snapped up at the launch and an order for more books has been sent to Companion Books.

As you can see from the summary of the Annual Accounts, there is still a substantial amount in the India Account (this is a separate bank account where donations for the Trust in India are paid), which cannot be transferred to the Trust in India due to the Indian Government's rules and regulations. We wrote to the donors explaining the situation in India and that they might consider stopping their donation for the Trust for the time being, and instead consider donating to the MBA itself, especially as we have major works to be carried out at the Centre and to help towards the increase in costs in maintaining the Centre.

Lastly, it is with great sadness and shock we acknowledge the passing of our dear Barbara's husband Freddie in mid-September. May his soul rest in eternal peace with his Maker.

Once again, the Board wishes to encourage the younger generation to step forward and consider giving their time, skills and energy to serve on the Board, especially if they have a skill set which would be an asset and help to the MBA and its Board.

Please do give this a serious thought, as the majority of the current Board are 'Senior Citizens' and cannot go on forever serving the UK Baba Family with their increasing age-related health problems!

Thank you for reading the Annual Report of the Meher Baba Association, UK. We hope to see you at the AGM and to see more new and old faces visiting your Baba Centre in London.

Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai

Havovi Mahaluxmiwala

For and on Behalf of the MBA Board

Centre Events

Christmas

Tanya Moller writes...

Our Annual Christmas Party 2023 was a popular event and around 30 people attended, this time it was celebrated on 9th December.

The day included a special, always special, film of Beloved Meher Baba. There was an opportunity to share a short reading from Baba or something seasonal or a poem. A very special shared meal was enjoyed by all around 1.00 p.m.

After lunch we held a festive raffle, with prizes suitable as small Christmas gifts, this was well received and raised some funds.

In the afternoon we sang carols and other Baba songs with live music, and a few surprises. This is always a joyful experience when everyone can join in and there were several children present who especially enjoyed the "pass the parcel" which followed and had been lovingly prepared with a Baba quote between every layer of Christmas paper, maybe there will be a box of chocolates in the middle.

Meher Baba's Prayers and Arti were said during the day. And the day ended with tea and cake. The Quiet Room was open all day for those who wanted some special time with Baba among the precious treasures of Meher Baba that are displayed, as well as a reference library of books.

Baba's Birthday

Tanya Moller writes...

The Baba Birthday Party 2024 was a very joyful event at the London Meher Baba Centre, this year it coincided with the actual date of 25th February.

Ellie Sullivan hosted it with some creative ideas for keeping everyone busy. One of which was a display of drawings and paintings of Beloved by those attending, which were displayed around the room. A film was shown as people gathered and Arti prayers were said before lunch. The meal was a shared feast and as usual dear Baba provided generously.

Shelagh Rowling organised a big auction to raise some funds for the Centre, clearing out the cupboards and finding surplus books, some painting, framed photographs of Meher Baba and other items for the sale. The auction took place after lunch; Paul Birchard was a very effective auctioneer, and the event was conducted in a very lively atmosphere and several hundred pounds were raised.

After that we had an exciting "pass the parcel" and everyone present, approximately 35 people including several children look part and everyone was happy to receive a Baba quote and a lovely tiny bottle of perfume. This was followed by Arti with prayers and the Gujarati and Australian Artis sung followed by lively singing of favourite Baba songs. And then a delicious assortment of cakes was spread out for our enjoyments and the singing of Happy Birthday, before we all went home after a happy day.

Shelagh Rowling writes...

Baba's 130th birthday party 2024 included an auction of paintings and other artworks in aid of the London Centre's running costs. Alongside the auction was a stall of Baba photos, frames and prints for sale at affordable prices. These proved popular.

Auctioned items included original works some of which were donated by the artists themselves or created especially for the occasion. A huge thank you must go to all who so generously produced and donated items for the fundraising auction. The auction took place after lunch with Paul Birchard as MC. Bidding was swift, generous and done with humour.

With our Baba family coming together to give of their time, love, creativity and energy, the auction fundraiser at Baba's birthday party was a success.

Prague Anniversary

Sue Chapman writes...

To mark the Anniversary of Meher Baba's Prague automobile accident in May 1952, we held a dedicated gathering at the Centre where we showed the film 'The Greatest of My Sufferings' which was created by the Heartland Centre team. This was followed by reflections on the significance of the accident in Baba's work in the West, and specifically the role Mehera undertook in partaking in this suffering. If you missed this film, you can watch it here: <https://vimeo.com/521980981>

Sahavas

Shelagh Rowling writes...

This took place at the London Centre over two weekends at the start of July 2024 - Saturday 6th and both 13th and 14th. From the initial idea to the actual gatherings was a mere 3 months. People fell over themselves in wanting to help out and be part of it. Baba unleashed so much love.

The theme of the sahavas was "Creativity and Remembering Beloved Baba." Talks and workshops of music, poetry and art formed the framework of our gatherings, the main events being after lunch. Before lunch for about an hour however, various activities were available. A table for making prayer flags and block printing was a permanent feature. The first morning a video of Mike da Costa performing his heartwarming songs and poetry was played. The following Saturday Wendy Halsted ran a superb immersive music and movement session based on Baba's name.

After lunch on the first Saturday, Alain Youell kindly opened the main proceedings speaking on 'New Age, New Page'; essentially about what creativity is, and how it is linked to intuition and Baba. Different cultures (including our own personal ones) and every action and creative action, become a vehicle for Baba to be present in our lives, for self and Self-expression. A natural means of remembering Him, of making Him our constant companion.

Almost as a warmup to the second weekend, there was a Dhuni on Friday 12th evening. It was the 90th anniversary of Baba's visit to the Fallenfluh in Switzerland and a short account was read. Paul Birchard then provided the music and Sally Manders the soup.

The second Saturday saw Rosie Jackson's poetry workshop entitled 'How He Loves Us' use the Quiet Room for the afternoon. An absorbing poetry recital took place after tea too. The whole poetry experience was very well received and heart opening. Some of the poetry offerings will appear in the next newsletter.

As an alternative in the basement there was a Music Programme - Biddu, Hilla Talwar, Wendy Halsted, Stephanie Edwards and Kalyan Gillett created an atmosphere that was as beautiful as it was heartfelt and Babaful. Others too came and were moved to perform - a true community. I understand that later there were many requests for more music at the centre.

On the third and final day, Jane Adams talked about her life of drawing Meher Baba, of how the images choose her, and of her creative experience. Slides of many dozens of her drawings were shown during the talk. After tea whoever wished to could have a go at drawing for themselves with Jane as a guide. Jane has kindly made the pdf of this talk available online and a recording of it is also underway.

Running as a thread through the sahavas were music and poetry such as quotes from Bhau's as yet unpublished ghazals, and music at Arti each day. The Quiet Room was well visited, the garden sat in, and the lunches and teas whether catered or potluck were appreciated. The time, care and attention by so many to make the sahavas a success simply shows how Baba is reaching out through us and drawing us all to Him.

Book Launch

Sue Chapman writes...

At time of writing this, *Fred*, the biography of Fred Marks, is ready for, or has been released by Companion Books. Thank you, Sevn

McCauley and the Beads on One String Foundation, for their support for this project. So, we are now able to scan and upload Fred's UK docs, so we have a complete digital record of his life. And there is more and still yet more to do. We would welcome tech savvy help for a number of future projects.

[Edit: *Fred* was launched on the 14th of September at the Centre and a write-up will appear in the forthcoming Newsletter]

Centre Openings

In addition to the events held at the Centre, it was also open on most Mondays during the daytime, as well as selected weekend days throughout the year.

Weekend Openings

David Lee writes...

It is simply a time for people to come and enjoy the space of the Baba Centre and be with Baba and each other in whatever way evolves. no agenda or program is set. The opening is for an afternoon from 1 to 5. Tea and biscuits are provided. We can sit quietly with Baba, share stories, watch a film, respectfully and sensitively reflect and discuss topics that are of interest.

I feel we have a responsibility to keep the centre open. To keep it safe, well looked after and to provide a space for people to feel safe together in Baba's love.

The Centre is a place to store archival material and process archival material. It is a venue for speakers to deliver talks and mainly for people to gather in whatever way they feel comfortable. It is a space to celebrate and enjoy our relationship with Meher Baba.

Monday Openings

Sally Manders writes...

- First, I will have a cursory look around to check for leaks or identifying issues.
- I will sweep the front stairs if needed.

I will do the following during the opening hours:-

- Sweep and dust the basement flat.
- Prepare a cooked meal.
- Wash kitchen floor.
- Will tidy garden weather permitting.
- Once a month I will read the gas and electricity meters. Then send readings to Om who pays the monthly bill.
- Check phone messages.
- Check supplies of hand wash and sugar, tea, coffee etc.
- Make visitors feel welcome.
- A meal is available each Monday for any visitors.
- I do sit and chat with Baba people and do odd jobs around the Centre.

Special thanks should go to Shelagh for cleaning the Ground floor flat and liaising with Sue doing Archive work.

Centre Library

Shelagh Rowling writes...

After Covid, in early 2022, work on sorting out and cataloguing boxes of donated books started under the auspices of the archive.

It was noted that some books that were new to us could be used in the existing libraries in the Quiet Room. An updated catalogue of all library books was therefore required to integrate the new books. Both reference and lending sections grew as a result. The processing of the many stored books is continuing even today. A few items find their way to the archive, and some are shelved in the library.

In July 2023 the Beads on one String project / group kindly funded a bookcase for the basement. This now houses the Lending Library which is quite well used. Within it there is a handy section specifically for 'new to Baba' people. Other sections are: Biography of Baba, Books by Baba / primarily of Baba's words, Books by or about the Mandali, Books by or about others, plus Poetry and Music. Up to two books can be borrowed at a time, for up to two months.

The Reference library remains upstairs for people to use in the Quiet Room. Glass doors will be put on the cabinets there to protect both books and the precious archival exhibits in the room.

Centre Bookstore

Tanya Moller writes...

Sale of books, calendars and CDs has been steady through the year, thanks to several special events, which boosted the number of sales; at the same time, I have been careful not to add too many titles to our stock, but to order new titles for which I thought there was a market. One of the best new books in my experience was Bal Natu's final work: "Intimate Times with Meher Baba at Guru Prasad". Bal himself made copious notes, during this period in the mid-1960s, and also gathered as much as he could from other Mandali members and devotees who were present. Baba had many interesting conversations and often gave short discourses and explanations, and there seemed to me quite a few unique passages. The whole book is a treasure trove of reminiscences. I can order more copies on request.

Once again sending out 60 Baba calendars kept us busy in Autumn with writing invoices, packaging and trips to the Post Office.

If anyone feels drawn to this type of work for Baba, please let us know, it is not necessary to live in London, I have lived near the South Coast all the time that I have been Book Walla for 25 years. All enquiries welcome.

Centre Archive

Sue Chapman writes...

It is a year since we received a generous personal donation for Archival Work in the UK and though it would be great to say we had achieved all our goals, we are still moving forward.

Last year, with the help of Maria Radoje, we prepared a display in the Quiet Room of beautiful items gifted to the Association by Hilla Talwar. They have provoked much joy and interest. Thank you Hilla! We well know everyone likes to see Baba's coat and it will be back soon after a brief interim display, we are spoilt for choice, and don't want items to remain 'hidden'.

In the Spring, with Martin and Christine Cook's help, we installed a new computer specifically for creating and storing a database of historical film, photo and document Archives. Martin and Chris uploaded all MBA's film and photo archives onto the hard drive for future research and viewing purposes. Some photos can be used unrestricted in our own publications, others need permissions, so access to the Archival database will remain password protected.

We purchased a new storage cabinet for media. Our existing film and photo collection has now been rehoused. We 'put out a call' for private media recordings but have had no response thus far! We know there is precious material out there in your homes that needs to be captured before it is lost forever. Examples would be audio or video and photos of Mandali visits to UK shores, visiting speakers like Ivy Duce, Adele Wolkin or Tom and Dorothy Hopkinson, etc. Shelagh Rowling has been gathering 'found' items at the Centre and is cataloguing these ready for digitising. We will pay to have your media transferred and all original copies will be returned to you. Please consider this a reminder. If you already have digital copies, please send a copy file to us to upload and should you have time to help review old audio cassettes of Baba talks at home please contact suchapman@hotmail.com.

Centre Care and Maintenance

Ernest Saunders writes...

1. When it comes to caring for the Centre and maintaining its efficient running, take note of the various Services involved.
 - o ADT Intruder and Fire Alarms
 - o Morgan Fire Protection
 - o West London Plumbing
 - o PAT Service
 - o Thames Water - Anti Flood System
2. November '23 we dealt with a serious water leak into the Basement Hallway. Luckily on first view the damage of the Fabric in the Hallway was not extensive, but still will need assessing. The cause was a penetration of rainwater from above through the ceiling of the walkway on the Ground Floor. To assess the potential damage MBA engaged a Surveyor, David Cooper Associates, that produced a Report that proposed remedial work which MBA are currently considering quotations for.
3. In February '24 painting work on the front elevation 228 was carried out, plus fixing an extra drainpipe to the right of the building.
4. A noteworthy mention of a Pressure Release Valve replacement to the Boiler (water heater) was necessary to extend its life!
5. In early 2024 a new ADT Intruder & Fire Alarm System was installed, so now the MBA's Centre has brand new security systems.
6. Again, considering the condition of the Archive Room window. Replacing it in its entirety, that is reproducing its Victorian elegance. As the room's purpose/use constitutes strict adherence to "Atmospheric Protocol". Deliberations continue!

Centre Stewardship

New Life Management Ltd (NLM) is the freeholder of 228 Hammersmith Grove, the building in which the Centre is housed. The MBA owns two-thirds of the shares in NLM, together with the leasehold for the two floors that the Centre occupies. Richard Cork and Tanya

Moller are Directors of NLM. They ensure that the legal and compliance requirements of the company are met, as well as monitoring and resolving any issues affecting the fabric of the building.

Richard Cork writes...

The Annual General Meeting took place in July 2024 and was conducted online by unanimous consent.

The Directors for 2023-24 were Matthew Evans, Tanya Moller and Richard Cork, who will all continue for a further 12 months.

It was agreed that Matthew Evans be reappointed as NLM Secretary, and that Richard Cork be reappointed as NLM Chair.

Newsletter

Paul Birchard writes...

It continues to be an inspiration and a pleasure to edit the Newsletter "To the Friends of Meher Baba", three times annually, for all the MBA's members and friends.

Over the past year, we have covered the group gatherings and Sahavases, and events recent and further removed going back to the 1930's, each and every one showing the Beloved's focused, loving care and attention, His intimate advice and encouragement, Meher Baba's life and work continue to fascinate and enrich our own, and the FRIENDS OF MEHER BABA is dedicated to bringing you lively and thoughtful accounts and reflections of it all.

Bursary

In line with our governing Articles of Association, the MBA is tasked with providing support for people who may wish to be involved in pilgrimage, sahavas or other spiritual learning activities connected with Meher Baba's life.

The maximum amount we can allocate in respect of a single request is £100. The successful applicant must first complete a form for assessment, then ultimately provide receipts for our accountant with details of how the funding was spent. Applications are treated in confidence. For more information, please see the MBA website.

Finances

The Association relies almost entirely on gifts and donations to operate and maintain our London Centre, and to stage events and openings. For the financial year ended 5th April 2024, we received total donations of £16,616 from various sources, and the MBA Board expresses its gratitude.

The procurement and sale of books and videos, which are a key element of the MBA's services to Members and to help anyone else interested in learning about Meher Baba, are carefully managed to generate a small surplus that contributes to the running costs of the Centre. This year sales were £2,121.

Subscriptions to the Newsletter help towards the cost of printing hard copies. These subscriptions are renewed annually, and this year brought in £600.

Overall, there was a deficit, with expenditure £3,757 more than income. This was due to the increased running costs of the Centre which have been affected by inflation, together with repairs and renewals that can fluctuate year-by-year. However, the control of finances remains a primary focus for the Trustees, and the cash at bank was £56,773 at the year-end. This would cover nearly three years' worth of "normal" operating costs at the Centre in the absence of any income, but the MBA cannot take a complacent stance as there are potentially significant "abnormal" one-off costs that come with a property the size and age of the Centre. Whilst great care is taken to insure against risks, not all exposure can necessarily be covered, particularly dilapidations.

The picture is stable currently, but the financial dynamics highlight the continued reliance on gifts and donations as referenced earlier, and importantly the substantial part that HMRC's Gift Aid tax reclaim scheme plays. For a UK taxpayer, the value of their donation increases by 25% upon the completion of a simple form and submission to the MBA who will then do the rest. Please contact us to arrange completion of said form.

Separately to all of this, the MBA manages "Restricted Funds" which are monies donated for specific and exclusive purposes. This year, the MBA continued to "ring fence" the donations that are made for onward transmission to India and the Meher Baba Trust. Currently there are Indian Government restrictions on international transfers, and monies are therefore still held in a dedicated bank account until the situation is resolved. The balance at the year-end was £9,166. Given this hiatus, should any donor prefer repayment, or redirection of monies to the MBA for general use, please contact us.

Since last year, a dedicated fund has also been set up for the Archive with a single seed donation of £20,216. At the financial year-end this Restricted Fund stood at £19,700.

The Board would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to Om Vasudeva who continues in the key role of Treasurer, maintaining our bookkeeping and compliance, as well as sharing banking duties with Tanya Moller to whom we also give thanks.

Aims for 2025

Tbc...

Appendix

Abridged Statement of Income & Expenditure

For the Year Ended 5th April 2024

| <u>£</u> | <u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u> | <u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u> | <u>Total</u> <u>Funds</u> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Income | | | |
| Donations & Legacies | 16,616 | 22,811 | 39,427 |
| Trading inc. Bookshop & Newsletter | 2,822 | 0 | 2,822 |
| Other | 665 | 0 | 665 |
| Total Income | 20,103 | 22,811 | 42,914 |
| Expenditure | | | |
| Trading inc. Bookshop & Newsletter | 2,524 | 0 | 2,524 |
| Charitable Activities | 21,336 | 516 | 21,852 |
| Total Expenditure | 23,860 | 516 | 24,376 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (3,757) | 22,295 | 18,538 |

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Cash at Bank | 56,773 | 28,866 | 85,639 |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|

Memo (Restricted Funds)

India - Meher Baba Trust Donations

9,166

Archive Fund

19,700

Total

28,866