

Friends of Africa

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100329

Details

Known as	FOA
Status	Received
Registered	2015-04-21
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	Accidental Theatre 12-13 Shaftesbury Square Belfast BT2 7db BT2 7DB
Phone	07770607725
Email	info@friendsof africa.org.uk
Website	www.friendsof africa.org.uk

Activities

Purposes: OBJECTS The "beneficiaries" will be young people in Africa and Ireland and the group is established:- -To educate the beneficiaries in any charitable way but in particular by creating opportunities for voluntary work in Africa -To assist the beneficiaries, through their leisure-time activities, to develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society and so that their conditions of life may be improved, in particular, by developing good citizenship and character-building through service to the community in Africa. -To promote racial harmony between young people in Ireland and Africa by promoting awareness of diverse issues, spirituality and culture. -To assist in the advancement of community development programmes for people living in Africa which will enhance their future opportunities and conditions of life.

What the charity does: The advancement of education, The advancement of citizenship or community development, The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity

How the charity works: Accommodation/housing, Community development, Community enterprise, Cultural, Education/training, Environment/sustainable development/conservation, General charitable purposes, Overseas aid/famine relief, Relief of poverty, Religious activities, Volunteer development, Welfare/benevolent, Youth development

Who the charity helps: Addictions (drug/solvent/alcohol abuse),Adult training,Children (5-13 year olds),Hiv/aids,Homelessness,Overseas/developing countries,Parents,Preschool (0-5 year olds),Volunteers

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£67,423	£101,751	£0	0
2024-08-31	£101,000	£84,000	£0	1

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Miss Deárbhla Mcguone		
Mr Ciaran Mcshane		
Mr John Toner		
Mr Ryan O'neill		
Ms Grainne Kelly		

Friends of Africa

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100329

Accounts

Charity Commission No: 100329



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2025
CHARITY INFORMATION

Board of Trustees

Dearbhla McGuone
Ciaran McShane
Ryan O'Neill

Chair

Grainne Kelly

Secretary

John Toner

Registered Office

Accidental Theatre Company
12-13 Shaftesbury Square
Belfast
County Antrim
BT2 7DB

Principal Bankers

Danske Bank
PO Box 183
Donegall Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

Charity Commission Number

100329

**FRIENDS OF AFRICA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2025
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FRIENDS OF AFRICA

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

The Trustees' present their report for the year ended 31st August 2025.

Objective and Activities

The objectives of Friends of Africa are:

- Educate the beneficiaries (beneficiaries refers to young people in Africa and Ireland) in any charitable way, but in particular by creating opportunities for young people in Ireland to take part in voluntary work in Africa on projects that will benefit young people in Africa;
- To assist the beneficiaries to help develop their physical, mental, and spiritual capacities so that they may develop to full maturity as individuals;
- To provide assistance to our beneficiaries so that their conditions of life may be improved and by developing qualities in our beneficiaries through service to the community in Africa;
- To promote racial harmony between young people in Ireland and Africa by promoting awareness of diverse issues, spirituality, and culture;
- To assist in the advancement of community development programmes for people living in Africa, which will enhance their future opportunities and conditions of life; and
- To support the means of voluntary work and financial assistance to various charitable projects for the prevention or relief of poverty, the advancement of education, and the preservation and protection of health in Africa.

Trustees

The following Trustees served during the year ended 31st August 2025:

- Grainne Kelly
- John Toner
- Dearbhla McGuone
- Colum Hegarty
- Ryan O'Neill
- Ciaran McShane

Achievements and Performance

During the year we launched our first Warm Welcome Programme, supporting new arrivals through learning, social activities, and community partnerships.

Long-term volunteering resumed, with a volunteer spending six months in Tsholofelo and the Western Cape.

Youth Work training returned in South Africa.

Our GSP group completed a successful placement in the Western Cape and Tsholofelo.

Throughout the year, we stood in solidarity against racism and injustice, continuing our advocacy at rallies across Belfast.

Our members took on a series of major fundraising challenges, including the St Patrick's Day 10k, the Belfast Marathon, and the demanding Causeway Coastal Marathon. We also launched our second Standing Order Appeal, which contributes sustainable annual income.

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

Our membership is continuously growing and allows the organisation to keep moving forward and supporting people at home and in Africa.

The board continues to meet regularly and deal with all the legal and statutory requirements for charities.

The Trustees of Friends of Africa have complied with their duty to have due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Financial Review

Reserves are at a level to meet the working capital requirements of the charity.

Neither during the year nor at the balance sheet date, was any fund in deficit.

Structure, Governance, and Management

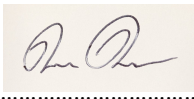
The charity is governed by its constitution.

Trustees are appointed as required, and in accordance with the constitution.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable legislation. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 26th May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
John Toner
Secretary

FRIENDS OF AFRICA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

I report on the accounts of Friends of Africa for the year ended 31st August 2025, which are set out on pages 4 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

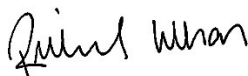
My role is to state whether any material matters have come to our attention giving us cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act;
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records;
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act; and
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's qualified statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Chartered Accountants Ireland, which is one of the listed bodies.



Richard Whan FCA
Chartered Accountant

Date: 26th May 2026

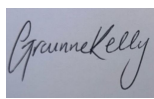
FRIENDS OF AFRICA
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		2,377	-	2,377	13,764
Charitable activities		-	54,158	54,158	42,194
Other trading activities		10,888	-	10,888	45,120
Total		13,265	54,158	67,423	101,078
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		2,459	-	2,459	17,232
Charitable activities	1	10,806	88,486	99,292	66,637
Total		13,265	88,486	101,751	83,869
Net income / (expenditure)		-	(34,328)	(34,328)	17,210
Transfers between funds		(14,378)	14,378	-	-
Net movements in funds		(14,378)	(19,950)	(34,328)	17,210
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		84,224	19,950	104,174	86,964
Total funds carried forward		69,846	-	69,846	104,174

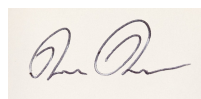
FRIENDS OF AFRICA
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

	31st August 2025	31st August 2024
	£	£
<u>Bank and cash balances</u>		
Danske bank current	69,379	106,805
AIB account	672	672
Danske credit card	(205)	(204)
	69,846	107,273
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Creditor balances	-	(3,099)
	-	(3,099)
<u>Net assets</u>	<u>69,846</u>	<u>104,174</u>

Approved by the trustees on 26th May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Grainne Kelly
Chair



John Toner
Secretary

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2025

Note 1 – Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
<i>Direct costs</i>				
Direct expenditure on projects	-	58,498	58,498	28,735
	-	58,498	58,498	28,735
	Unrestricted Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
<i>Costs in support of charitable activities</i>				
Staff costs	6,712	18,625	25,337	29,311
Insurance	254	704	958	958
Website costs	169	469	638	613
Telephone and internet	179	497	676	757
Training	365	1,013	1,378	2,723
Rent	1,866	5,179	7,045	2,035
Audit and accountancy fees	672	1,867	2,539	780
Software	203	564	767	90
Printing, postage, stationery	222	615	837	-
Bank fees	164	455	619	635
	10,806	29,988	40,794	37,902
Total expenditure on charitable activities	10,806	88,486	99,292	66,637

Friends of Africa

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100329

Accounts

Charity Commission No: 100329



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024

**FRIENDS OF AFRICA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2024
CHARITY INFORMATION**

Board of Trustees

Ciaran McShane
Dearbhla McGuone
Aoife Heaney
Grainne Kelly
John Toner
Claire McGinn

Chair

Claire McGinn

Secretary

Grainne Kelly

Registered Office

Accidental Theatre Company
12-13 Shaftesbury Square
Belfast
County Antrim
BT2 7DB

Principal Bankers

Danske Bank
PO Box 183
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BT1 6JS

Charity Commission Number

100329

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FRIENDS OF AFRICA

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024

The Trustees' present their report for the year ended 31st August 2024.

Objective and Activities

The objectives of Friends of Africa are:

- Educate the beneficiaries (beneficiaries refers to young people in Africa and Ireland) in any charitable way, but in particular by creating opportunities for young people in Ireland to take part in voluntary work in Africa on projects that will benefit young people in Africa;
- To assist the beneficiaries to help develop their physical, mental, and spiritual capacities so that they may develop to full maturity as individuals;
- To provide assistance to our beneficiaries so that their conditions of life may be improved and by developing qualities in our beneficiaries through service to the community in Africa;
- To promote racial harmony between young people in Ireland and Africa by promoting awareness of diverse issues, spirituality, and culture;
- To assist in the advancement of community development programmes for people living in Africa, which will enhance their future opportunities and conditions of life; and
- To support the means of voluntary work and financial assistance to various charitable projects for the prevention or relief of poverty, the advancement of education, and the preservation and protection of health in Africa.

Trustees

The following Trustees served during the year ended 31st August 2024:

- Ciaran McShane
- Dearbhla McGuone
- Shannon Heffron (resigned February 2024)
- Aoife Heaney
- Grainne Kelly
- John Toner
- Claire McGinn

Achievements and Performance

Friends of Africa has continued to grow in terms of impact and membership. There have been many areas of development such as Racial Justice Training, developing a framework to address racism as members and an organisation which was a pivotal focus point for the charity throughout the year.

We undertook a Moderation and Evaluation trip to South Africa and Botswana to visit established partners in Tsholofelo and potential new partners in Botswana. Whilst we didn't manage to align with any new partnerships, at the end of June our Chair stepped down and committed to 6 months, volunteering within the Tsholofelo community.

The Global Solidarity programme (GSP), which involved 6 members heading to South Africa to facilitate a youth work camp in the Tsholofelo community alongside local volunteers, was a great success. Individual fundraisers generated much needed funds to be passed on to our partners.

There were various activities throughout the year. 16 members completed their OCN youth level 2. In the Christmas gift appeal, 42 backpacks and vouchers were delivered to people living in temporary accommodation in Belfast on 20th December. Individual members organised fundraisers, raising £5,000 for the Tsholofelo community projects which focus on skills development for adult learners. The annual Fundraiser took place in Achill where members and friends took on the "Tri-achill on" challenge, cycling, hiking and Kayaking.

Grants secured included Dungiven parish, Belfast Harbour, and the Big Lotto fund of £19,950 which will fund the "Warm Welcome Programme."

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024

As it stands, we have 131 members, which is continuously growing and allows the organisation to keep moving forward and supporting people at home and in Africa.

The board continues to meet regularly and deal with all the legal and statutory requirements for charities.

The Trustees of Friends of Africa have complied with their duty to have due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Financial Review

Reserves are at a level to meet the working capital requirements of the charity.

Neither during the year nor at the balance sheet date, was any fund in deficit.

Structure, Governance, and Management

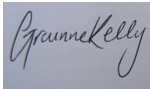
The charity is governed by its constitution.

Trustees are appointed as required, and in accordance with the constitution.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable legislation. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on^{10/06/25}..... and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Secretary

FRIENDS OF AFRICA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

I report on the accounts of Friends of Africa for the year ended 31st August 2024, which are set out on pages 4 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

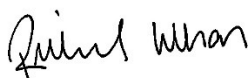
My role is to state whether any material matters have come to our attention giving us cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act;
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records;
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act; and
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's qualified statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland, which is one of the listed bodies.



Richard Whan FCA
Chartered Accountant

Date: 10/06/25
Date:

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		3,764	10,000	13,764	17,965
Charitable activities		-	42,194	42,194	44,228
Other trading activities		45,120	-	45,120	12,105
Total		48,885	52,194	101,078	74,298
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		17,232	-	17,232	10,455
Charitable activities	1	-	66,637	66,637	98,857
Total		17,232	66,637	83,869	109,312
Net income / (expenditure)		31,653	(14,443)	17,210	(35,014)
Transfers between funds		(34,393)	34,393	-	-
Net movements in funds		(2,740)	19,950	17,210	(35,014)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		86,964	-	86,964	121,978
Total funds carried forward		84,224	19,950	104,174	86,964

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024

	31st August 2024	31st August 2023
	£	£
<u>Bank and cash balances</u>		
Danske bank current	106,805	83,835
BOI volunteer account	-	2,457
AIB account	672	672
Danske credit card	(204)	-
	107,273	86,964
 <u>Liabilities</u>		
Creditor balances	(3,099)	-
	(3,099)	-
 <u>Net assets</u>	<u>104,174</u>	<u>86,964</u>

Approved by the trustees on ^{10/06/25} and signed on their behalf by:



Chair



Secretary

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024

Note 1 – Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
<i>Direct costs</i>				
Direct expenditure on projects	-	28,735	28,735	62,644
	-	28,735	28,735	62,644
<hr/>				
	Unrestricted Funds 2024	Restricted Funds 2024	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
<i>Costs in support of charitable activities</i>				
Staff costs	-	29,311	29,311	27,260
Insurance	-	958	958	1,602
Website costs	-	613	613	527
Telephone and internet	-	757	757	694
Training	-	2,723	2,723	1,944
Rent	-	2,035	2,035	3,050
Audit and accountancy fees	-	780	780	-
Software	-	90	90	180
Printing, postage, stationery	-	-	-	648
Bank fees	-	635	635	308
	-	37,902	37,902	36,213
<hr/>				
Total expenditure on charitable activities	-	66,637	66,637	98,857

Friends of Africa

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100329

Accounts

Charity Commission No: 100329



**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023**

**FRIENDS OF AFRICA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023
CHARITY INFORMATION**

Board of Trustees

Ciaran McShane
Shannon Heffron
Aoife Heaney
Grainne Kelly
Martin Lynch
John Toner
Claire McGinn

Chair

Shannon Heffron

Secretary

Grainne Kelly

Registered Office

Accidental Theatre Company
12-13 Shaftesbury Square
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FRIENDS OF AFRICA
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

The Trustees' present their report for the year ended 31st August 2023.

Objective and Activities

The objectives of Friends of Africa are:

- Educate the beneficiaries (beneficiaries refers to young people in Africa and Ireland) in any charitable way, but in particular by creating opportunities for young people in Ireland to take part in voluntary work in Africa on projects that will benefit young people in Africa;
- To assist the beneficiaries to help develop their physical, mental, and spiritual capacities so that they may develop to full maturity as individuals;
- To provide assistance to our beneficiaries so that their conditions of life may be improved and by developing qualities in our beneficiaries through service to the community in Africa;
- To promote racial harmony between young people in Ireland and Africa by promoting awareness of diverse issues, spirituality, and culture;
- To assist in the advancement of community development programmes for people living in Africa, which will enhance their future opportunities and conditions of life; and
- To support the means of voluntary work and financial assistance to various charitable projects for the prevention or relief of poverty, the advancement of education, and the preservation and protection of health in Africa.

Trustees

The following Trustees served during the year ended 31st August 2023:

- Ciaran McShane
- Shannon Heffron
- Aoife Heaney
- Grainne Kelly
- Martin Lynch
- John Toner
- Claire McGinn

Achievements and Performance

Friends of Africa celebrated 25 years, acknowledging the dedication of those involved in the organisation since 1998. We are proud to have 114 individuals giving their time and energy towards achieving our mission, of providing personal and social development opportunities for young people, here at home in Ireland and in our partner countries in Africa.

The Member's Weekend was held in Gortin, and launched a Standing Order Appeal where members were encouraged to get family and friends to sign-up to give a monthly donation to support FOA projects. Thanks to the success of this initiative, we now have annual donations, and can respond appropriately to the needs of our partners.

In January, FOA's Development Officer, was invited to Phokeng, South Africa to the Tsholofelo Community to deliver workshops on Youth Work to young adults who were selected to facilitate summer camps alongside FOA members in July. This training and planning added to the success of the first GSP in South Africa.

At our first Member's Meeting in January, we mapped out the year ahead and held an award ceremony for our 2020 and 2022 cohorts who completed their OCN Level 2 in Youth Work. Reporting 43% of our membership are now qualified in Youth Work, an essential pillar in ensuring success of youth work activities we facilitate.

A Well-being Weekend was facilitated in Corrymeela, Ballycastle, the 2-day retreat included Tai Chi, Art Therapy, and breathing exercises. The weekend provided an opportunity for members to take time out from their busy lives to relax, reflect, and recharge.

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

The Law Centre NI hosted a very informative session on Migration and Asylum in Ireland. The shocking statistics presented helped educate our membership and put us in a better position to raise awareness, challenge negative narratives, and support those affected.

In May we hosted our first World Africa Day celebrations. The event allowed attendees to become immersed in African culture through dance, food, music, art, fashion, and the evening included inspiring quest speakers.

June 2023 the return of Member's travelling overseas to work with partners in South Africa and Tanzania, for the first time since 2019. FOA rebranded the volunteer programme as the Global Solidarity Project, with the attention on working in partnership with local youth leaders to deliver camps focusing on personal and social development. Extensive planning with partners was conducted pre-departure to ensure FOA were responding to the needs of the community. Following recruitment, training, and fundraising 7 members set off to Mwanza, Tanzania and 6 Member's to Phokeng, South Africa.

FOA applied and successfully received £9,900 from the Big Lotto Community Fund, which facilitated a 5-day summer scheme for young people of African origin who now call Belfast home. The week is filled with sports, games, day-trips, and new friendships.

Our Annual fundraiser in 2023 was The 4 Peaks Challenge, where 21 members and friends took on the highest peak in each province in Ireland over 3 days, to raise funds to support FOA projects.

The board continues to meet regularly and deal with all the legal and statutory requirements for charities.

The Trustees of Friends of Africa have complied with their duty to have due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Financial Review

Reserves are at a level to meet the working capital requirements of the charity.

Neither during the year nor at the balance sheet date, was any fund in deficit.

Structure, Governance, and Management

The charity is governed by its constitution.

Trustees are appointed as required, and in accordance with the constitution.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable legislation. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 21/06/2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Grainne Kelly

Secretary

FRIENDS OF AFRICA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

I report on the accounts of Friends of Africa for the year ended 31st August 2023, which are set out on pages 4 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

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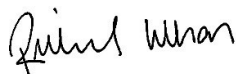
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I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland, which is one of the listed bodies.



Richard Whan FCA
Chartered Accountant

Date: 21/06/2024

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		13,965	4,000	17,965	15,696
Charitable activities		-	44,228	44,228	13,855
Other trading activities		12,105	-	12,105	9,101
Investments		-	-	-	37
Total		26,070	48,228	74,298	38,689
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		10,086	369	10,455	3,699
Charitable activities	1	49,672	49,185	98,857	66,690
Total		59,758	49,554	109,312	70,389
Net income / (expenditure)		(33,688)	(1,326)	(35,014)	(31,700)
Transfers between funds		(1,326)	1,326	-	-
Net movements in funds		(35,014)	-	(35,014)	(31,700)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		121,978	-	121,978	153,678
Total funds carried forward		86,964	-	86,964	121,978

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

	31st August 2023	31st August 2022
	£	£
<u>Bank and cash balances</u>		
Danske bank current	83,835	118,850
BOI volunteer account	2,457	2,457
AIB account	672	671
Total	86,964	121,978

Approved by the trustees on 21/06/2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Shannon Heffron

Chair

Grainne Kelly

Secretary

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

Note 1 – Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<i>Direct costs</i>				
Direct expenditure on projects	13,459	49,185	62,644	34,475
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Staff costs	27,260	-	27,260	24,459
Insurance	1,602	-	1,602	1,357
Website costs	527	-	527	15
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Rent	3,050	-	3,050	2,290
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Software	180	-	180	433
Printing, postage, stationery	648	-	648	769
Bank fees	308	-	308	286
General expenses	-	-	-	14
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Friends of Africa

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100329

Annual report

Charity Commission No: 100329



**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023**

**FRIENDS OF AFRICA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023
CHARITY INFORMATION**

Board of Trustees

Ciaran McShane
Shannon Heffron
Aoife Heaney
Grainne Kelly
Martin Lynch
John Toner
Claire McGinn

Chair

Shannon Heffron

Secretary

Grainne Kelly

Registered Office

Accidental Theatre Company
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County Antrim
BT2 7DB

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Danske Bank
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BT1 6JS

Charity Commission Number

100329

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023
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FRIENDS OF AFRICA
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

The Trustees' present their report for the year ended 31st August 2023.

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The objectives of Friends of Africa are:

- Educate the beneficiaries (beneficiaries refers to young people in Africa and Ireland) in any charitable way, but in particular by creating opportunities for young people in Ireland to take part in voluntary work in Africa on projects that will benefit young people in Africa;
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- To support the means of voluntary work and financial assistance to various charitable projects for the prevention or relief of poverty, the advancement of education, and the preservation and protection of health in Africa.

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The following Trustees served during the year ended 31st August 2023:

- Ciaran McShane
- Shannon Heffron
- Aoife Heaney
- Grainne Kelly
- Martin Lynch
- John Toner
- Claire McGinn

Achievements and Performance

Friends of Africa celebrated 25 years, acknowledging the dedication of those involved in the organisation since 1998. We are proud to have 114 individuals giving their time and energy towards achieving our mission, of providing personal and social development opportunities for young people, here at home in Ireland and in our partner countries in Africa.

The Member's Weekend was held in Gortin, and launched a Standing Order Appeal where members were encouraged to get family and friends to sign-up to give a monthly donation to support FOA projects. Thanks to the success of this initiative, we now have annual donations, and can respond appropriately to the needs of our partners.

In January, FOA's Development Officer, was invited to Phokeng, South Africa to the Tsholofelo Community to deliver workshops on Youth Work to young adults who were selected to facilitate summer camps alongside FOA members in July. This training and planning added to the success of the first GSP in South Africa.

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A Well-being Weekend was facilitated in Corrymeela, Ballycastle, the 2-day retreat included Tai Chi, Art Therapy, and breathing exercises. The weekend provided an opportunity for members to take time out from their busy lives to relax, reflect, and recharge.

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
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Our Annual fundraiser in 2023 was The 4 Peaks Challenge, where 21 members and friends took on the highest peak in each province in Ireland over 3 days, to raise funds to support FOA projects.

The board continues to meet regularly and deal with all the legal and statutory requirements for charities.

The Trustees of Friends of Africa have complied with their duty to have due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Financial Review

Reserves are at a level to meet the working capital requirements of the charity.

Neither during the year nor at the balance sheet date, was any fund in deficit.

Structure, Governance, and Management

The charity is governed by its constitution.

Trustees are appointed as required, and in accordance with the constitution.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable legislation. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 21/06/2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Grainne Kelly

Secretary

FRIENDS OF AFRICA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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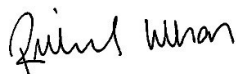
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Richard Whan FCA
Chartered Accountant

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

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FRIENDS OF AFRICA
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

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Chair

Grainne Kelly

Secretary

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

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Friends of Africa

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100329

Annual return

Charity Commission No: 100329



**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023**

**FRIENDS OF AFRICA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023
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Board of Trustees

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Shannon Heffron
Aoife Heaney
Grainne Kelly
Martin Lynch
John Toner
Claire McGinn

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Shannon Heffron

Secretary

Grainne Kelly

Registered Office

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County Antrim
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Charity Commission Number

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FRIENDS OF AFRICA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023
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FRIENDS OF AFRICA
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

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FRIENDS OF AFRICA
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FRIENDS OF AFRICA

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ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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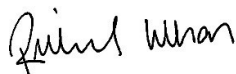
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Chair

Grainne Kelly

Secretary

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Friends of Africa

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100329

Accounts

Charity Commission No: 100329



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2022
CHARITY INFORMATION

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Aoife Heaney
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Martin Lynch
Emer McGirr
Claire McGinn

Chair

Ciaran McShane

Secretary

Shannon Heffron

Registered Office

Accidental Theatre Company
12-13 Shaftesbury Square
Belfast
County Antrim
BT2 7DB

Principal Bankers

Danske Bank
PO Box 183
Donegall Square West
Belfast
BT1 6JS

Charity Commission Number

100329

**FRIENDS OF AFRICA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2022
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FRIENDS OF AFRICA

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

The Trustees' present their report for the year ended 31st August 2022.

Objective and Activities

The objectives of Friends of Africa are:

- Educate the beneficiaries (beneficiaries refers to young people in Africa and Ireland) in any charitable way, but in particular by creating opportunities for young people in Ireland to take part in voluntary work in Africa on projects that will benefit young people in Africa;
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- To assist in the advancement of community development programmes for people living in Africa, which will enhance their future opportunities and conditions of life; and
- To support the means of voluntary work and financial assistance to various charitable projects for the prevention or relief of poverty, the advancement of education, and the preservation and protection of health in Africa.

Trustees

The following Trustees served during the year ended 31st August 2022:

- Ciaran McShane
- Shannon Heffron
- Aoife Heaney
- Grainne Kelly
- Martin Lynch
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- Claire McGinn

Achievements and Performance

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The International Volunteer Programme was on hold for another year however we helped our partners in the LULU Project, SELL Ghana, Tanga House, Tsholofelo and Hapani with various grants which supported development projects in line with our vision and mission.

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
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The board continues to meet regularly and deal with all the legal and statutory requirements for charities.

The Trustees of Friends of Africa have complied with their duty to have due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Financial Review

Reserves are at a level to meet the working capital requirements of the charity.

Neither during the year nor at the balance sheet date, was any fund in deficit.

Structure, Governance, and Management

The charity is governed by its constitution.

Trustees are appointed as required, and in accordance with the constitution.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

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Approved by the Trustees on 21st June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Shannon Heffron
Secretary

FRIENDS OF AFRICA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

I report on the accounts of Friends of Africa for the year ended 31st August 2022, which are set out on pages 4 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

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It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

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I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland, which is one of the listed bodies.

Richard Whan FCA
Chartered Accountant

Date: 21st June 2023

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		15,696	-	15,696	3,983
Charitable activities		-	13,855	13,855	8,243
Other trading activities		9,101	-	9,101	7,733
Investments		37	-	37	197
Total		24,834	13,855	38,689	20,156
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		3,699	-	3,699	2,638
Charitable activities	1	52,835	13,855	66,690	43,185
Total		56,534	13,855	70,389	45,823
Net income / (expenditure)		(31,700)	-	(31,700)	(25,668)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movements in funds		(31,700)	-	(31,700)	(25,668)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		153,678	-	153,678	179,346
Total funds carried forward		121,978	-	121,978	153,678

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

	31st August 2022	31st August 2021
	£	£
<u>Bank and cash balances</u>		
Danske bank current	118,850	150,537
BOI volunteer account	2,457	2,469
AIB account	671	672
Total	121,978	153,678

Approved by the trustees on 21st June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Ciaran McShane

Chair

Shannon Heffron

Secretary

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

Note 1 – Expenditure on charitable activities

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<i>Direct costs</i>				
Direct expenditure on projects	20,620	13,855	34,475	12,246
	<u>20,620</u>	<u>13,855</u>	<u>34,475</u>	<u>12,246</u>
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<i>Costs in support of charitable activities</i>				
Staff costs	24,459	-	24,459	22,950
Insurance	1,357	-	1,357	900
Website costs	15	-	15	675
Telephone and internet	438	-	438	102
Training	-	-	-	418
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Audit and accountancy fees	2,154	-	2,154	714
Software	433	-	433	180
Printing, postage, stationery	769	-	769	-
Bank fees	286	-	286	2,835
General expenses	14	-	14	220
	<u>32,215</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,215</u>	<u>30,939</u>
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Friends of Africa

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100329

Annual report

Charity Commission No: 100329



**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022**

**FRIENDS OF AFRICA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2022
CHARITY INFORMATION**

Board of Trustees

Ciaran McShane
Shannon Heffron
Aoife Heaney
Grainne Kelly
Martin Lynch
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FRIENDS OF AFRICA

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

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FRIENDS OF AFRICA

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FRIENDS OF AFRICA
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

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FRIENDS OF AFRICA
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Friends of Africa

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100329

Annual return

Charity Commission No: 100329



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

**FRIENDS OF AFRICA
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2022
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Ciaran McShane
Shannon Heffron
Aoife Heaney
Grainne Kelly
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FRIENDS OF AFRICA

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

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Secretary

FRIENDS OF AFRICA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

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Secretary

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

Note 1 – Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
<i>Direct costs</i>				
Direct expenditure on projects	20,620	13,855	34,475	12,246
	<u>20,620</u>	<u>13,855</u>	<u>34,475</u>	<u>12,246</u>
	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
<i>Costs in support of charitable activities</i>				
Staff costs	24,459	-	24,459	22,950
Insurance	1,357	-	1,357	900
Website costs	15	-	15	675
Telephone and internet	438	-	438	102
Training	-	-	-	418
Rent	2,290	-	2,290	1,945
Audit and accountancy fees	2,154	-	2,154	714
Software	433	-	433	180
Printing, postage, stationery	769	-	769	-
Bank fees	286	-	286	2,835
General expenses	14	-	14	220
	<u>32,215</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,215</u>	<u>30,939</u>
Total expenditure on charitable activities	<u>52,835</u>	<u>13,855</u>	<u>66,690</u>	<u>43,185</u>