



Friends of Khasdobir, Bangladesh

Charity Number 1185262

5th Annual Report and Accounts

To 31st March 2025

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

Trustees

Mr Mike Sherriff (Chair)
Mrs Moyra Blake (Secretary)
Ms Maureen Haddock
Mrs Kathleen Jackson

Ms Sue Simmons
Mrs Doreen Watson
Mr Philip Watson (Treasurer)
Mr John Cowpe

Bankers: Barclays. **Independent Examiner:** Rachel Thorpe

Web site: www.khasdobir.org.uk.

History and Objectives

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

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

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is governed by a constitution adopted at a General Meeting held on June 29th, 2019. Trustees, most of whom have visited the project we support in Bangladesh, are appointed by existing trustees to serve a period of 3 years. There must be between 3 and 12 trustees.

Review of the Year

Friends of Khasdobir supports the educational and welfare work begun by Peter East and Harun Ahmed in Sylhet, Bangladesh, over 40 years ago. Since 1st July 2018 the Friends have supported the Sylhet Jubo Academy (SJA), a local non-government organisation based in Sylhet, to deliver the project. This is the final year of a three-year commitment we have made to SJA to deliver the project up to July 2025. This year we made a further commitment for two years to July 2027.

During the year we continued to support 12 pre-primary centres – 7 on the tea gardens and 5 serving the slum areas. 8

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of the centres are in purpose-built shelters constructed by the project. The remainder are in rented premises. They provide education for 385 4–6-year-olds. In January 2025 56 children from our pre-primary centres transferred to primary school. Each centre had a farewell party and presented certificates to the children leaving.

The project provides training in sewing, block-batik and hand embroidery, and computing. 100 young people take part in the training. For young women living on the tea gardens the training provides an alternative to tea garden work. We are especially pleased that one of the more remote tea garden centres has started their own sewing and computer training run by students who previously completed courses at our project office. We are also pleased that several previous computer students have started to earn income using online freelancing platforms.

This year we supported 40 widows with an allowance of 700 taka per month. We are gradually reducing the numbers supported. Our outreach team is assisting widows to obtain support from alternative facilities in Sylhet- for example local health provision.

We continue to give attention to the long-term sustainability of the work. Each centre now has a local management committee that is engaged in raising funds to support some of the activities at their centre. With the centre management committees, we are considering the long-term future including collaboration with tea garden and government primary schools and seeking support from a range of other organisations including local Rotary Clubs.

This year has been the final phase of the SJA fundraising officer pilot. A football

tournament with over 100 local teams taking part was organised to raise funds in Sylhet.

Our UK fundraising this year has included a virtual legacy trek visiting the shelters that we have constructed in Sylhet, a virtual Christmas puppet show, fundraising meals, a garden party and Santa fun run. Several organisations have made donations including Rotary and Churches. We are extremely grateful to everybody who has organised fundraising events and to everybody who makes regular or one-off donations. Our on-line fundraising platform is: <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/friends-of-khasdobir> We rely on these donations and fundraising events to raise the money to continue to support the project.

We continue to have a facebook page with 805 followers and produce a regular newsletter.

Next year there will some reduction in our activities as we put more emphasis on trying to ensure the long-term sustainability of the work. We will continue support for 10 centres. We will increase embroidery and block batik training, continue support for computer training but end direct sewing training. We will continue to support 20 widows.

Risk Assessment

The Trustees have considered the risks to which they may be exposed and have policies in place to manage these. We have a lead trustee for safeguarding and have given particular attention to strengthening our communication with the project about safeguarding issues. We have introduced new policies on serious incident reporting and prevention of bullying.

Public Benefit

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The Trustees confirm that due regard has been given to the Charity Commissioners' guidance on public benefit. The work in Bangladesh, which we support, assists the very poorest people in the area.



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

**Saturday July 5th 2025
10 am by zoom.**

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

khasdobir@btinternet.com

For more news and pictures do please visit our website:

www.khasdobir.org.uk

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

I report on the accounts of Friends of Khasdobir, Bangladesh, to 31st March 2025

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

- (i) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

- (ii) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Rachel Thorpe CIMA
52 Priory Road, Loughborough. LE11 3PP
Independent Examiner

FRIENDS OF KHASDOBIR: BANGLADESH**Charity No. 1185262****Accounts for the Year 1st April, 2024 to 31st March 2025**

| | Present Year to 31/03/25 | Last Full Year to 31/03/24 | Full Year to 31/03/23 |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| RECEIPTS | £ | £ | £ |
| Donations from Individuals: Gift Aid Tax Recoverable | 10,050.14 | 9,972.00 | 10,093.00 |
| Donations from Individuals: Gift Aid Tax Not Recoverable | 3,110.45 | 1,469.09 | 2,498.81 |
| Fundraising Meals Income: Gift Aid Tax Recoverable | 1,425.00 | 795.00 | 765.20 |
| Fundraising Meals Income: Gift Aid Tax Not Recoverable | 60.00 | 130.00 | 175.00 |
| Individual Donations from Fund Raising: Gift Aid Tax Recoverable | 115.00 | 918.00 | 1,915.00 |
| Individual Donations from Fund Raising: Gift Aid Tax Not Recoverable | 317.00 | 0.00 | 49.10 |
| Donations from Groups, Toc H Branches and Other Organisations | 1,742.00 | 428.70 | 1,615.50 |
| Legacies | 500.00 | 0.00 | 25,000.00 |
| Sales of Calendars, Surplus Jewellery, and Other Items | 0.00 | 15.00 | 0.00 |
| Interest from Charities Official Investment Fund (COIF) Deposit Account | 265.78 | 193.43 | 113.19 |
| Interest from Charities Official Investment Fund (COIF) Investment Account | 4,178.82 | 4,957.45 | 5,823.92 |
| Tax Recovered from HMR&C on Year's Gift Aidable Donations | 3,404.22 | 3,635.47 | 3,090.61 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | 25,168.41 | 22,514.14 | 51,139.33 |
| PAYMENTS | | | |
| Grant to Sylhet Jubo Academy in Bangladesh | 40,953.00 | 50,150.00 | 57,769.00 |
| New Colour Leaflet about Project | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Quarterly Newsletter Printing and Packing | 300.00 | 331.15 | 296.22 |
| Postage (Mainly Newsletters, but Other Letters also) | 558.00 | 498.00 | 338.40 |
| Meeting Room Hire | 0.00 | 0.00 | 60.00 |
| Equipment Purchase for Sylhet Jubo Academy's Work in Khasdobir | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Website Registration, Design, Management and Server Provider Continuation | 15.69 | 71.87 | 0.00 |
| Trustee(s) Monitoring Visits to Bangladesh | 1,298.21 | 3,229.84 | 4,303.41 |
| Project Expenses by Trustees for work in Khasdobir | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Costs incurred in fundraising (UK) | 555.00 | 50.00 | 0.00 |
| Grant to Sylhet Jubo Academy for Shelter Construction | 0.00 | 14,702.00 | 0.00 |
| Public and Trustee Liability Insurance | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Bank Charges for Transferring Money to SJA's Account in Sylhet | 75.00 | 150.00 | 100.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 | 70.00 | 646.00 |
| TOTAL PAYMENTS | 43,754.90 | 69,252.86 | 63,513.03 |
| Surplus (- = Deficit) | -18,586.49 | -46,738.72 | -12,373.70 |
| BALANCES | | | |
| Balance Brought Forward | 171,078.91 | 203,615.12 | 223,363.47 |
| Revaluation of Investment Fund (gain/loss) as at 1st April 2025 | -6,786.43 | 14,202.51 | -7,374.65 |
| Surplus or Deficit this year | -18,586.49 | -46,738.72 | -12,373.70 |
| Cumulative Surplus Carried Forward | 145,705.99 | 171,078.91 | 203,615.12 |
| Represented By: | | | |
| Barclays Bank Current Account | 10,035.08 | 3,066.17 | 13,955.77 |
| CCLA Charities Official Investment Fund (Deposit Account) | 1,788.77 | 5,344.17 | 9,193.29 |
| CCLA Charities Official Investment Fund (Investment Account) | 133,882.14 | 162,668.57 | 180,466.06 |
| Total Bank Balances | 145,705.99 | 171,078.91 | 203,615.12 |

**Friends of Khasdobir Annual Report and Accounts adopted
by the Trustees on 5th April 2025**



MIKE SHERRIFF
Chair of Trustees



Phil Watson
Hon Treasurer