Friends of Khasdobir, Bangladesh

Charity Number 1185262

6th Annual Report and Accounts

To 31st March 2026

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 first year of a two-year commitment we have made to SJA to deliver the project up to July 2027.

During the year we supported 10 pre-primary centres – 7 on the tea gardens and 3 serving the slum areas. 8 of the centres operated in purpose-built shelters constructed by the project. The

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

remainder are in rented premises. They provide education for 350 4–6-year-olds. In January 2026 176 children from our pre-primary centres transferred to primary school. Each centre had a farewell party and presented certificates to the children leaving. In addition to providing education the centres hold regular meetings with parents and guardians focussing on child welfare and development.

The project provides training in block-batik and hand embroidery, and in computing. 77 young people take part in 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 20 widows with an allowance of 700 taka per month. We are gradually reducing the numbers supported. Our outreach team is assisting widows to access other forms of support, including government allowances and local health provision.

Our outreach team assist people throughout the project's area of benefit. This has included helping people to access local health services and assisting children re-enter school if they drop out. Yard meetings are held to raise local awareness about issues such as prevention of dengue fever and preventing violence against women. Approximately 200 children a year are assisted to obtain a birth certificate.

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. Each committee is considering the long-term future of their centre including potential collaboration with tea garden and government primary schools. One pre-primary school will move to share accommodation with a government primary school from April 2026.

Our UK fundraising this year has included our annual Christmas puppet show, with children from the project performing, singing and dancing for our audience of mainly elderly supporters in the UK. One of our trustees again took part in the Skegness Santa fun run to raise funds to support the work. The Soar Valley lunches and the fundraising meals organized in Loughborough continue to provide significant funds. In the past year we also received a £500 legacy. We are extremely grateful to everybody who has organised fundraising events and to everybody who makes 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 necessary to continue to support the project.

We continue to have a facebook page with 781 followers and we produce a newsletter twice a year.

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 strengthened our communication with the project about safeguarding issues.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that due regard has been given to the Charity Commissioners' guidance on public benefit. Our work assists the very poorest people in the area of benefit.



Above: Embroidery class

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

Saturday July 4th 2026
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 2026

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 in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Rachel Thorpe

Insert any relevant qualification and address

Independent Examiner

CIMA. 52 PRIORY RD, LEICESTER LE4 3PP 4/8/2026

FRIENDS OF KHASDOBIR: BANGLADESH

Charity No. 1185262

Accounts for the Year 1st April, 2025 to 31st March 2026

	Present Year to 31/03/2026	Year to 31/03/2025	Year to 31/03/2024
RECEIPTS	£	£	£
Donations from Individuals: Gift Aid Tax Recoverable	9,739.40	10,050.14	9,972.00
Donations from Individuals: Gift Aid Tax Not Recoverable	2,245.00	3,110.45	1,469.09
Fundraising Meals Income: Gift Aid Tax Recoverable	1,067.50	1,425.00	795.00
Fundraising Meals Income: Gift Aid Tax Not Recoverable	70.00	60.00	130.00
Individual Donations from Fund Raising: Gift Aid Tax Recoverable	25.00	115.00	918.00
Individual Donations from Fund Raising: Gift Aid Tax Not Recoverable	0.00	317.00	0.00
Donations from Groups, Toc H Branches and Other Organisations	2,425.00	1,742.00	428.70
Legacies	1,500.00	500.00	0.00
Sales of Calendars, Surplus Jewellery, and Other Items	0.00	0.00	15.00
Interest from Charities Official Investment Fund (COIF) Deposit Account	95.03	265.78	193.43
Interest from Charities Official Investment Fund (COIF) Investment Account	3,933.88	4,178.82	4,957.45
Tax Recovered from HMR&C on Previous Year's Gift Aidable Donations	2,874.48	3,404.22	3,635.47
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**23,975.29**	**25,168.41**	**22,514.14**
PAYMENTS			
Grant to Sylhet Jubo Academy in Bangladesh	26,313.00	40,953.00	50,150.00
New Colour Leaflet about Project	0.00	0.00	0.00
Quarterly Newsletter Printing and Packing	300.00	300.00	331.15
Postage (Mainly Newsletters, but Other Letters also)	576.00	558.00	498.00
Meeting Room Hire	109.80	0.00	0.00
Website Registration, Design, Management and Server Provider Continuation	0.00	15.69	71.87
Trustee(s) Monitoring Visits to Bangladesh	1,074.93	1,298.21	3,229.84
Expenses by Trustees for Khasdobir Work	191.75	0.00	0.00
Costs Incurred in Fundraising (UK)	0.00	555.00	50.00
Grant to Sylhet Jubo Academy for Primary School Renovation	2,660.00	0.00	14,702.00
Public and Trustee Liability Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Charges for Transferring Money to SJA's Account in Sylhet	100.00	75.00	150.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	70.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	**31,325.48**	**43,754.90**	**69,252.86**
Surplus (- = Deficit)	**-7,350.19**	**-18,586.49**	**-46,738.72**
BALANCES			
Balance Brought Forward	145,705.99	171,078.91	203,615.12
Revaluation of Investment Fund (gain/loss) as at 1st April 2021	-10,945.95	-6,786.43	14,202.51
Surplus or Deficit this year	-7,350.19	-18,586.49	-46,738.72
Cumulative Surplus Carried Forward	**127,409.85**	**145,705.99**	**171,078.91**
Represented By:			
Barclays Bank Current Account	13,155.98	10,035.08	3,066.17
CCLA Charities Official Investment Fund (Deposit Account)	1,317.68	1,788.8	5,344.17
CCLA Charities Official Investment Fund (Investment Account)	112,936.19	133,882.14	162,668.57
Total Bank Balances	**127,409.85**	**145,705.99**	**171,078.91**

Friends of Khasdobir Annual Report and Accounts adopted by the Trustees on 2nd May 2026

MIKE SHERRIFF
Chair of Trustees

PHIL WATSON
Hon Treasurer