John & Susan Bowers Fund

established 1973

Trustees' report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026

Registered charity number 266616

John & Susan Bowers Fund

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The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the accounts of the John & Susan Bowers Fund (JSBF or the Fund or the charity). These are the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026 prepared to meet the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

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Objectives and activities

The objectives of the charity as set out in its Trust Deed, for the public benefit, are:

'the furtherance of such charitable bodies institutions or charitable purposes … as the Settlor during his life and [Trustees] shall from time to time … in their discretion think fit.'

JSBF Trust Deed, 19 July 1973

Public Benefit

The JSBF Trustees confirm that, in managing all the charity's activities, they have had regard to guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission. In order to achieve JSBF's objectives, the Trustees have set JSBF the remit of concentrating its focus in determining beneficiaries as being smaller charities (generally, but not exclusively, taken to mean a turnover of around £1 million or less), in particular those which encourage self-help, are local to Trustees, or in which Trustees have a particular interest.

The Trustees hope JSBF's beneficiaries will use funding to allow them to grow and become self-sufficient, or at least continue to carry out their stated objectives. This is intended to increase the effectiveness of social cohesion and awareness, and, where necessary, plug certain gaps in state welfare provision.

Achievements and performance

The Trustees made a total of 31 unrestricted grants in 2025-26 (as in 2024-25). Four restricted grants were made totalling £1,550. JSBF responded to one emergency appeal, the Disasters Emergency Committee's fund for victims of the Myanmar earthquake of March 2025, giving £1,000. The categories and amounts are summarised as follows:

Category	Recipients	Amount	% recipients	% total grants	Last year	
Arts & Music	3	4,500	9.7	12.1	6	7,000
Environment	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Health/welfare/soc justice UK	16	15,900	51.6	42.6	16	15,800
Health/welfare/soc justice World	12	16,900	38.7	45.3	9	12,600
Sub-totals	31	37,300	100	100	31	35,400
Emergency	1	1,000				3,000
Restricted	4	1,550			3	700
Bank charges		60				60
Accountancy & examiner fees		690				690
Totals		**40,600**				**39,850**

Structure, governance and management

JSBF was established as a Charitable Settlement by Trust Deed on 19 July 1973; amended in respect of managing Trustees by further deeds in December 1990 and February 2005.

The power of appointing Trustees was vested in the Settlor during his life, but, following the amendment of February 2005, 'the remaining Trustees may appoint suitable persons as Trustees, but the total number of Trustees shall not be more than eight nor less than four and at least one of them shall not be a member of the Settlor's family or their heirs and successors.' The Settlor, John Bowers, died on 4 March 2020.

The Trust Deed does not require the appointment of specified officers; tasks are allocated among Trustees and non-Trustees. Chris Bowers is Chair of JSBF's Trustees, Jenny Johns is Secretary, David Rawle (not a Trustee) is Treasurer. Jenny Johns and Jenny Armitstead are recipients and initial adjudicators of all new appeals.

Decisions on grants are made by the Trustees at their annual meeting (usually in the autumn) or at other times by the Chair after consultation with at least one other Trustee from outside his household. All grants which are not determined by a meeting of Trustees are subsequently reported to the Trustees for formal confirmation that they fall under the terms of the Trust Deed and charity law.

Following the Settlor's death, there are no constraints on the Trustees' investment powers, nor on their ability to use the Fund's capital for charitable purposes. Advice on investments is given by an investment sub-group of Trustees appointed by all JSBF's Trustees for that purpose. The Investment Sub-Group consisted in 2025-26 of Chris Bowers, Louisa Flemington, Sebastian Johns, and Stephen Johns.

Reference and administrative information

The name of the charity is the John and Susan Bowers Fund. JSBF's charity registration number is 266616.

The registered address of JSBF is 5 Greenacres Drive, Ringmer, East Sussex, BN8 5LZ.

The Fund's Trustees during the year 2025-26 were: Jennifer Armitstead, Christopher Bowers (Chair), Veryan Gill, Jennifer Johns, Louisa Flemington, Sebastian Johns, and Stephen Johns.

Honorary Treasurer
David Rawle, Cheshunt House, 10 Cheshunt Close, Meopham, Kent, DA13 0HU

Accountant and Independent Examiner
John Harbor, 11 Hamsey House, 5 Southdowns Road, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2WZ

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA, at which JSBF holds two accounts: a 'Cafcash' current account and a 'Gold' interest-bearing account.

Financial review

After concerns in 2024-25 that prompted the Investment Sub-Group to seek an additional meeting with Greenbank, 2025-26 proved a quieter year with steady growth despite a difficult financial climate. JSBF's Greenbank holding on 31 March 2026 was £842,715, up by 5.4% from its level a year earlier of £799,477, and almost back to the £845,717 it had been at on 31 March 2024.

The Trustees drew down £16,000 from the Rathbone Greenbank holding to increase their level of charitable giving from £39,100 in 2024-25 to £39,850 in 2025-26.

In 2025-26, the value of JSBF's two legacy holdings increased very slightly (1.4%) from £342,427 to £347,107, M&G Charifund doing marginally better than the bigger holding in CCLA's Coif Charities Ethical Investment Fund, but the values are effectively flat-lining.

The flow of dividend income from our legacy holdings was up slightly from £14,080 to £14,655. No new legacy units were bought in 2025-26.

Policy on reserves

Free reserves are defined as unrestricted funds less the net book value of any fixed assets held. JSBF policy is to hold a minimum of £3,000 after agreement of the forthcoming 12 months' charitable grants expenditure, in order to allow it to respond to emergency disaster appeals. As at 1 April 2026, JSBF's free reserves were £5,685 (2025: £6,986).

Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records and for ensuring that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the JSBF Trust Deed. 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 or any other irregularities. The Trustees have determined that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 does not apply.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above:





Officer Chris Bowers
Position Chair

Officer David Rawle
Position Treasurer

19 October 2026

Independent Examiner's Report

To the Trustees of the John and Susan Bowers Fund

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026, which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

As the charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

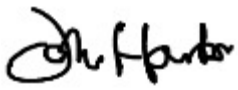
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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).

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 Harbor

Chartered Accountant,
5 Hamsey House
5 Downs Road
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2WZ

10 October 2026

John & Susan Bowers Fund

established 1973

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Receipts and payments

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2026	Total funds 2025
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Investment income - dividends	4	14,655		14,655	14,080
Gifts and donations		3,891	2,000	5,891	5,925
Give As You Earn		960		960	960
Gift Aid tax recovered		1,491		1,491	1,514
Other income inc bank interest		152		152	311
		-	-	-	-
Sub total		21,149	2,000	23,149	22,790
Asset and investment drawdown					
Rathbone investment		16,000	-	16,000	12,000
		-	-	-	-
Sub total		16,000	-	16,000	12,000
Total receipts		37,149	2,000	39,149	34,790
Payments					
Grants made to beneficiaries:					
Arts & Music		4,500	-	4,500	7,000
Environment		-	-	-	-
Health, welfare, social justice - UK		15,900	-	15,900	15,800
Health, welfare, social justice - World		16,900	-	16,900	12,600
Emergency grants		1,000	-	1,000	3,000
Restricted grants		-	1,550	1,550	700
Other items of expenditure:					
Bank charges	5	- 90		- 90	60
Accountant & examiner fees		690	-	690	690
Sub total		38,900	1,550	40,450	39,850
Asset and investment purchases					
Rathbone investment		-	-	-	-
Legacy funds		-	-	-	-
Sub total		-	-	-	-
Total payments		38,900	1,550	40,450	39,850
Net of receipts/(payments)		- 1,751	450	- 1,301	- 5,060
Transfers between funds		450	- 450	-	-
Cash funds last year end		6,986	-	6,986	12,046
Cash funds this year end		5,685	-	5,685	6,986

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2026

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £
Cash funds	CafBank Current a/c	9	441
	CafBank Gold a/c	5,676	6,545
		-	-
	Total cash funds	5,685	6,986
Other monetary assets	Gift Aid receivable from HMRC	1,473	3,900
		Value 31.3.2026 £	**Value 31.3.2025 £**
Investment assets	COIF Ethical Fund	191,767	210,987
	M&G Charifund	155,340	131,440
	Rathbone Investment managed	842,715	799,477
	Total value of investments	1,189,822	1,141,904
Assets retained for the charity's own use		NIL	NIL
Liabilities		NIL	NIL

Approved by the trustees on 10 October 2026 and signed on their behalf:

Chris Bowers - chair

Date: 19 OCT 2026

The notes on page 9 form a part of these financial statements

Notes to the financial statements for year ending 31 March 2026

1 Accounting policies

a Basis of preparation

These accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis as permitted for (unincorporated) charities with gross income of £250,000 or less per annum

b Funds accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted funds – general funds which can be used for the charity's ordinary purposes

Restricted funds – (a) income from trusts which may be expended only on those restricted objectives provided in the terms of the trust or bequest; (b) donations or grants received for a specific objective or invited by the charity for a specific objective. The funds may only be expended on the specific objective for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund unless permission is sought from donors to reallocate the fund.

2 Trustee remuneration and expenses

No payment has been made to Trustees for remuneration or reimbursement of expenses.

3 Health, welfare, social justice - World

Grants made under this heading are to UK registered charities and entities whose charitable work is for beneficiaries outside the UK. JSBF does not make grants to overseas charitable bodies.

4 Investment Income through dividends

	2026 £	2025 £
COIF Ethical Fund	6,430	6,245
M&G Charifund	8,224	7,835
	14,654	14,080

5 Bank charges

This year's figure for bank charges is a minus figure because we were given an ex gratia credit from CAF Bank in apology for its poor levels of service. The bank charges for the year were £60, the credit was £150, so the figure that appears is -£90.