

FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

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FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

**CHARITY REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

Council Members

Dame Marina Warner, Chair
Stephanie Kenna
Revd Keith Stephenson FCMA, Treasurer
Dr Geoffrey West, Secretary
Dr Christopher Wright OBE, Deputy Chair

Charity registered number

328095

Registered office

96 Euston Road
London
NW1 2DB

Independent Examiner

Cara Miller ACCA
MHA
Chartered Accountants
910 The Crescent
Colchester Business Park
Colchester
Essex
CO4 9YQ

Banker

The Co-operative Bank plc
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Solicitors

Russell-Cooke
2 Putney Hill
London
SW15 6AB

FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

The Council members are pleased to submit the thirtieth annual report and the financial statements of Friends of the British Library for the year ended 30 June 2024. The Council members confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Charity's governing document and 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice' applicable to charities preparing accounts in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) as updated through Update Bulletins 1 and 2, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

Structure, governance and management

The Friends of the British Library is an unincorporated association and a registered Charity operating under a written constitution adopted on 12 January 1989 and last revised on 19 March 2018. Council members are Trustees of the Charity for the purposes of charity law.

Trustee appointment and recruitment

The Council consists of five members. Trustees are recruited and appointed by existing Trustees considering the balance of Trustee experience required and seeking interest from former British Library staff or current Members.

Friends of the British Library has a close working relationship with the British Library and the British Library Collections Trust.

Objectives and activities

In the year reported the purpose of Friends of the British Library, as per its Constitution, was to further the education of the public by promotion, support, assistance and improvement of the British Library. This was achieved through the payment of grants to the British Library Collections Trust to allow the improvement of the collection or to assist with the exhibitions, activities or events held by the British Library.

Achievements

In the year reported Friends of the British Library made grants totalling £65,000 to the British Library Collections Trust (all unrestricted) compared to £200,000 (£190,000 unrestricted and £10,000 restricted - literature from the Greek mainland) in the previous year.

Financial review

Total income for the year was £77,691 compared with £200,421 the previous year. Although the Friends membership activity and any active fundraising has ceased, the Charity benefits from legacies – £77,585 in the year reported (£199,152 in the previous year).

Under the agreement establishing the British Library Collections Trust, all the Charity's funds are to be paid to the Trust. Grants to the British Library Collections Trust totalled £65,000 (£200,000 in the previous year).

Total resources expended were £68,156 compared with £202,621 the previous year. If grants are excluded, costs totalled £3,156 compared with £2,621 the previous year. Costs continue to be tightly controlled.

Operating surplus was £9,535 (2023: £2,200 deficit).

Net current assets at the end of the year were £23,825 (all unrestricted) compared with £14,290 at 30 June 2023.

Plans for future periods

The Council is focused on transferring any further assets that arise to the British Library Collections Trust.

FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

**COUNCIL MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

Reserves policy

The Charity will carry a reserve of up to £25,000. At 30 June 2024, reserves held were £23,825, below that level. £25,000 is considered a prudent reserve as the Friends of the British Library exists simply to collect legacies and donations and then use them to make grants to the British Library Collections Trust.

The year under Review

The trustees focused on transferring assets to the British Library Collections Trust.

Public Benefit

The Council members confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties. The public benefit of the Charity's activities are outlined under 'Objectives and Activities' above.

This report was approved and authorised for issue by the Council members on 17 February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Marina Warner

Dame Marina Warner
Chairman

FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL MEMBERS OF FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY (the 'Charity')

I report to the charity Council Members on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 30 June 2024 which are set out in pages 5 to 15.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the Council Members of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 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 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

Signed: *Cara Miller*

Dated: March 12, 2025

Cara Miller ACCA
MHA
Chartered Accountants
910 The Crescent
Colchester Business Park
Colchester
Essex
CO4 9YQ

FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	77,691	-	77,691	200,421
TOTAL INCOME		77,691	-	77,691	200,421
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities	3	68,156	-	68,156	202,621
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		68,156	-	68,156	202,621
NET (EXPENDITURE) / INCOME		9,535	-	9,535	(2,200)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		9,535	-	9,535	(2,200)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		14,290	-	14,290	16,490
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		23,825	-	23,825	14,290

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 7 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2024**

	Note	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>26,597</u>		<u>186,810</u>	
		26,597		186,810	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(2,772)</u>		<u>(172,520)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>23,825</u>		<u>14,290</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>23,825</u>		<u>14,290</u>
CHARITY FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	9		<u>23,825</u>		<u>14,290</u>
Restricted funds	9		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>23,825</u>		<u>14,290</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Council Members on 17 February 2025 and signed on their behalf, by:

Marina Warner

.....
Dame Marina Warner, Chair

Keith Stephenson

.....
Revd Keith Stephenson, Treasurer

The notes on pages 7 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 General information and basis of preparation

Friends of the British Library is an unincorporated Charity and is registered with the Charity Commission (Charity Registered Number 328095) in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is given in the Charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the Charity's operations and principal activities are detailed in the Council Members' Annual Report.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the Charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.3 Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the Charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the Charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the Charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the Charity however it is not possible to measure reliably the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

1.4 Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Grants payable to third parties are within the charitable objectives. Where unconditional grants are offered, this is accrued as soon as the recipient is notified of the grant, as this gives rise to a reasonable expectation that the recipient will receive the grants. Where grants are conditional relating to performance then the grant is only accrued when any unfulfilled conditions are outside of the control of the Charity.

FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**1.5 Support costs allocation**

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity and include the oversight of grant-making activities carried out at Headquarters. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the running of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

The analysis of these costs are included in Notes 5 and 6.

1.6 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors are recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Creditors are recognised when the Charity has a present legal or constructive obligation resulting from a past event and the settlement is expected to result in an outflow of economic benefits.

1.7 Tax

The Charity is an exempt Charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it is able to take advantage of applicable Charity tax exemptions for UK corporation tax purposes.

1.8 Going concern

The Council Members have assessed the use of going concern and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Council Members have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of the approval of these financial statements. The Trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing these financial statements.

FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.9 Financial instruments

The Charity does not have a material holding in complex financial instruments. The Charity only holds basic Financial Instruments. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Charity are as follows:

Cash at bank – is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Liabilities – grants accrued, accruals, bank loans and overdrafts, and other creditors will be classified as financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in Note 8.

1.10 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The following judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have been made in the process of applying the above accounting policies that have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

The key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

- The Charity is a going concern

FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	106	-	106	1,269
Legacies	77,585	-	77,585	199,152
Total 2024	<u>77,691</u>	-	<u>77,691</u>	200,421
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>200,421</u>	-	<u>200,421</u>	

3. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Grant funding of activities 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Support for the British Library through the British Library Collections Trust	<u>65,000</u>	<u>3,156</u>	<u>68,156</u>	<u>202,621</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>2,621</u>	<u>202,621</u>	

Grant funding of activities is analysed in Note 4. Support costs are analysed in Note 5.

4. GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS

	2024 £	2023 £
British Library Collections Trust		
General – cash	65,000	200,000
Total	<u>65,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>

FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Insurance	102	98
Bank charges	-	3
Governance costs	3,054	2,520
Total	<u>3,156</u>	<u>2,621</u>

Governance costs are analysed in Note 6.

6. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Legal fees	282	-
Independent Examiner - Independent Examination	2,772	2,520
Total	<u>3,054</u>	<u>2,520</u>

7. STAFF COSTS AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Council Members neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2023: £Nil).

During the year, no Council Members received any benefits in kind (2023: £Nil).

The total amount of employee benefits received by Key Management Personnel is £Nil (2023: £Nil). The Charity considers its Key Management Personnel to comprise of the Council Members.

The Council Members did not have any expenses reimbursed during the year (2023: £Nil).

FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

8. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals	2,772	2,520
Grant commitments	-	170,000
	<hr/> 2,772 <hr/>	<hr/> 172,520 <hr/>

9. FUND RECONCILIATION
STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Balance at 1 July 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 30 June 2024 £
General funds					
General Funds	14,290	77,691	(68,156)	-	23,825
	<hr/> 14,290 <hr/>	<hr/> 77,691 <hr/>	<hr/> (68,156) <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> 23,825 <hr/>
Total Unrestricted funds	<hr/> 14,290 <hr/>	<hr/> 77,691 <hr/>	<hr/> (68,156) <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> 23,825 <hr/>
Restricted funds					
	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>
Total Restricted funds	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>
Total funds	<hr/> 14,290 <hr/>	<hr/> 77,691 <hr/>	<hr/> (68,156) <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> 23,825 <hr/>

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 July 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 30 June 2023 £
General funds					
General Funds	6,490	200,421	(192,621)	-	14,290
	<hr/> 6,490 <hr/>	<hr/> 200,421 <hr/>	<hr/> (192,621) <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> 14,290 <hr/>
Total Unrestricted funds	<hr/> 6,490 <hr/>	<hr/> 200,421 <hr/>	<hr/> (192,621) <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> 14,290 <hr/>
Restricted funds	<hr/> 10,000 <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> (10,000) <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>
Grecian artefacts and literature	<hr/> 10,000 <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> (10,000) <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>
Total Restricted funds	<hr/> 16,490 <hr/>	<hr/> 200,421 <hr/>	<hr/> (202,621) <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> 14,290 <hr/>
Total funds	<hr/> 16,490 <hr/>	<hr/> 200,421 <hr/>	<hr/> (192,621) <hr/>	<hr/> - <hr/>	<hr/> 14,290 <hr/>

FRIENDS OF THE BRITISH LIBRARY

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

10. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS
ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Current assets	26,597	-	26,597
Creditors due within one year	(2,772)	-	(2,772)
	<u>23,825</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,825</u>

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2024 £
Current assets	186,810	-	186,810
Creditors due within one year	(172,520)	-	(172,520)
	<u>14,290</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,290</u>

11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

All the Charity's Trustees are also Trustees of the British Library Collections Trust. The Charity passes its funds periodically to the British Library Collections Trust. In the year to 30 June 2024 the Friends made grants of £65,000 to the British Library Collections Trust (2023: £200,000).