

# MEG ROPER TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

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The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2008 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

### **Objectives and activities**

The Charity's objectives are the advancement of education and religion and the relief of poverty in any part of the world. The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting its grant making policy.

The Trust has always been aware that its three main objectives (advancement of education, advancement of religion and relief of poverty) cannot be viewed as three discrete objectives, requiring the application of three separate sets of criteria. Rather, there is "cross-fertilisation" between the concepts: a donation to a religious organisation may serve to advance religion but, on many occasions, it can lead to people receiving an educational benefit. Similarly, when much needed food and nutrition is not available for children in Ethiopia, then the chances of their growing and learning how to be valuable citizens is close to zero.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

### **Grant Making Policy**

The Trust has an established grant making policy to achieve its objects for the public benefit; in most cases this involves a quasi-partnership approach. When determining what donation to make to which charitable cause the Trustees always endeavour to have close regard to the ultimate effect of such donations, the synergy between donor and donee and the identity and need of the ultimate beneficiaries of any funding.

Practically, this means that the bulk of the grants made by the Trust are to other existing charities who, in the opinion of the Trustees, can demonstrate a track record of engagement in charitable activities which reflect the aims and objectives of the Trust. On some occasions grants are made on a 'restricted funds' basis whereby the donation is made in aid of a particular activity or charitable project that the Trustees have a particular interest in developing. On other occasions it is recognised by the Trustees that certain charities have a proven track record in projects which reflect closely the Trust's own objects and with whom the Trust, over the years, have built up a relationship.

### **Monitoring**

In order to quantify the effect of their grants, and to assist them with future decision making, the Trustees receive regular reports from the receiving organisations detailing the application of the Funds.

### **Achievements and performance**

#### **Financial review**

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

# MEG ROPER TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

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The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity is an unincorporated organisation.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr James Fitzpatrick

Mr Dominic Fitzpatrick

Ms Brid Fitzpatrick

The Trust is a registered charity, number 101667, and is constituted under a Deed of Trust made on 8th September 1969. The Trust was established by an initial gift from Mr. James Fitzpatrick (current Chair) and his late wife Mrs. Alice Fitzpatrick. Over the years the Fitzpatrick family has made substantial gifts to the charity and the legacy of the Meg Roper Trust is seen by the family and others as a lasting tribute to the late Mrs Fitzpatrick. The Trust does not actively fundraise and seeks to continue the charitable work desired by the donors through the stewardship of existing resources, along with periodic contributions from the family to those resources.

The Trustees meet on a quarterly basis. At their meetings the Trustees nominate potential beneficiaries for grants. The vast majority of these nominees are other registered charities but being a registered charity is not a pre-requisite to eligibility for a grant from the Trust. However, any potential beneficiary must have a charitable purpose and activity that would accord with the Trust's own charitable objectives of the advancement of education and religion and the relief of poverty in any part of the world. If necessary the Trustees' meeting will shortlist the nominees. When successful candidates have been determined, the amount of the grant to be made to each of them is then arrived at and the names of the grantees, with the amounts of the grants, are recorded.

The Trust does not have any employees. It does not have premises. Trustees meet either at the home of a Trustee or at business premises owned or controlled by the Chairman. It is, essentially, free from overheads. All Trustees give of their time freely and no trustee remuneration is paid.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

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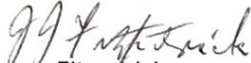
# MEG ROPER TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019*

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The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



**Mr James Fitzpatrick**

Chairperson

Dated: 28 January 2020