

The Children of Sikkim

Supporting Sikkimese children through primary, secondary and higher education
Registered UK Charity No 1153784



TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT PERIOD 1 January to 31 December 2019

SECTION A Reference and administration details

Principal address: Fairlight
31 Lower Stoke
Limpley Stoke
BATH BA2 7FR

Trust established 1st June 2013. Registered with the Charity Commission 12th September 2013

Trustees:

Trustee name	Office	Dates acted	Appointed by
Margaret Jean Finlayson	Chairperson	Reappointed 01 June 19 for 3 years, acted to period end	
Duncan Macdonald Finlayson	Secretary and Treasurer	Reappointed 28 th October 2017 for 3 years, acted to period end	
Paul Thomson		Reappointed 1 March 2019 for 3 years, acted to period end	
Amy Finlayson		Reappointed 1 March 2019 for 3 years, acted to period end	

SECTION B Structure, governance and management

The Children of Sikkim charity is governed by a trust deed, and is constituted as a trust. New trustees are appointed by the existing trustees.

The charity is managed by the Chairperson and the Secretary/Treasurer, with support from other trustees.

SECTION C Objectives and activities

The Objects of The Children of Sikkim charity

The objects are:

To advance the education of children from Sikkim, North East India by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities not required to be provided by any government or local authority or any other public body. For the public benefit to promote the education of such persons in such ways as the charity trustees think fit, including by:

1. awarding to such children scholarships, maintenance allowances, and Grants;
2. providing their education to undertake travel in furtherance of that education and to assist them by providing grants, maintenance allowances or paying fees for them to attend at any further schools, universities or colleges, or to prepare them for entry into any occupation, trade or profession on leaving any educational establishment;

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To assist in such ways as the charity trustees think fit any charity in place whose aims include advancing of education of persons under the age of 25 years by developing their mental, physical and moral capabilities through leisure time activities.

Nothing in this deed shall authorise an application of the property of the charity for purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Summary of main activities undertaken for the public benefit

During 2019, the Trust paid for education as follows:

- 7 children to attend Dr Graham's Homes School, reducing to 6 as Anurag Rai was withdrawn by his parents
- 2 students to attend colleges of higher education in Bangalore and Namchi, Sikkim.
- 1 student attending medical university in Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Money for this comes from sponsors, appeals and fund-raising events. In addition, accumulated reserves will be drawn down over time. All trust personnel work on a voluntary basis and meet their own expenses.

The benefit to the public is to be able to support the education of poor and disadvantaged children in a remote part of India, which changes their life prospects.

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

SECTION D Achievements and performance

During 2019 the charity continued to maintain, recruit and if necessary replace sponsors, who make a regular contribution to support the education of a named child. During 2019 funds were raised from the sponsorship income. In addition, the Trust held an online raffle for a second year, the prize being weekend passes to the 2019 WOMAD festival, donated by WOMAD. The results of this were disappointing.

The deficit in income grew during 2019 to a level which needs addressing, the problem being that as the number of students in higher education increases, so do the costs.

The Chairperson and Secretary visited India in October/November 2019, meeting students in Delhi, Bengaluru, Kalimpong and Gangtok. The trip is fully described in the website News. The cost was met by a donation.

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SECTION E Financial review

The income for the period was £12,951.53. Expenditure was £ 22,480.30, meaning reserves were run down by £9,528.77. The current account held £2,224.28 at the end of the period, and the deposit accounts £32065.68. The trustees had previously decided that reserves will if necessary be run down gradually to make up for any shortfall in income. Total reserves at period end was £34,089.86. The reserves include £3811 allocated for computers within the Taylor Bequest.

The figures in summary are:

Sponsorship income, schooling	£ 7,252
Sponsorship income, higher education	£204
Fundraising	£134
Appeals	£500
Gift Aid	£1,874
Misc income and interest	£418
Donation to cover cost of trustees' trip	£2,568
Total income	£12,950
Dr Graham's fees	-£10,500
Half cost of Sangdup as guardian	-£958
Coaching fees	-£1,207
Higher education fees and living costs	-£5,929
Cost of computers (from Taylor bequest)	-£226
Website and misc	-£474
Cost of trustees' trip to India	-£3,185
Total expenses	-£ 22,479
NET INCOME	-£9,529
Reserves (bank accounts less prepayments)	£ 34,090

SECTION F Other optional information

No entry.

SECTION G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signatures		
Full names	Margaret Jean Finlayson	Duncan Macdonald Finlayson
Position	Chair	Trustee, Secretary
Date	13 August 2020	13 August 2020

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