

# GREEN KORDOFAN



GREEN KORDOFAN

## **ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS APRIL 1, 2020 TO MARCH 31, 2021**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reference and administrative detail	3
Structure, governance and management	4
Objectives	4
Activities and achievements	5
Financial review	14



*COVID-19 poster drawing courtesy of Darrie Payne*

## Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31 March 2021

To follow is the annual report and financial statements presented by the Trustees of Green Kordofan. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act, Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) and with the financial reporting standards applicable in the U.K. and Ireland.

### Reference and administrative details

Charity name:	Green Kordofan
Charity registration number:	1164386
Principal Address:	Flat 5, 57 Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1DF

#### Director, Patron and Board of Trustees

Director and founder:	Raga Gibreel
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Patron:	Olivia Warham, OBE
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Board of Trustees:	Omema Dain - Appointed 20/09/2018 Peter Keenan - Appointed 06/02/2017 Tom Law - Appointed 12/08/2015 Nagwa Shagga - Appointed 12/08/2015 Jane Champion - Appointed 21/02/2020 Aida Silvestri - Appointed 21/02/2020 Abena Akuffo-Kelly – Appointed 21/02/2020 Sonja Miley (resigned June 2021)
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Ambassador:	Steve Bishop
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## **Structure, governance & management**

Green Kordofan is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and is controlled by its governing document/constitution. Its only voting members are the Trustees.

### **Recruitment, appointment, induction and training of Trustees**

The existing Trustees are responsible for recruitment and appointment of new Trustees. In selecting new Trustees our aim is to identify individuals who have knowledge of the situation in South Sudan and the region, who support our aims and objectives and who are willing to attend community/ fundraising events as well as attend Trustee meetings. In the first instance potential Trustees are invited to attend events and meetings as observers so existing Trustees can assess their suitability and commitment. New Trustees are given copies of the constitution and relevant charity commission publications and are instructed in the responsibilities of their position. They also attend a training session with Green Kordofan's Director and founder to ensure they have a full understanding of the work of the organisation.

### **Risk Management**

The Trustees have given consideration to the major risks to which the charity is exposed, the nature of those risks and the measures taken to manage them. These include governance risks, operational risks, financial risks, external risks and compliance with laws and regulations.

## **Objectives**

The purpose of Green Kordofan is to promote the wellbeing of young people through sport; to meet the needs of children and young people who have been displaced by conflict through:

- (a) the provision of healthy recreational activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life.
- (b) the provision of support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.

The welfare of children is paramount regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity. Each child has the right to equal protection and the right to freedom from any harm or abuse. We work with parents, guardians, NGOs and government agencies to maintain child welfare.

### **Public benefit**

The charity has given consideration to the Charity Commission's published guidance on the public benefit requirement under the Charity Act 2011 and believe we meet this requirement through our work in South Sudan and our awareness raising and fundraising activities in the U.K. The Trustees believe that the activities outlined below provide benefit to the residents of Yida camp in South Sudan and also to communities throughout the U.K.

## Project location in Yida refugee camp, South Sudan



## Activities and achievements

There is no doubt that COVID 19 has shaped our present time with added extra pressure on our Resources. Green Kordofan (GK) like many other small charities and people around the world have been badly affected. The greatest challenges for us are workload, rising demands for our services and shrinking funding sources. Over the last 15 months or so, we have risen to the challenges, adapted and continued to find new ways to operate and generate much-needed income to support our beneficiaries in Yida Camp, South Sudan. We are thankful for our extraordinary volunteers and donors who have continued to give to this cause. In addition to other donations, we received a grant from Souter which enabled us to continue to deliver our work.

At Yida Camp, the refugees and host community are experiencing an ongoing reduction of aid provision. Lockdown policies led to the loss of ways of making income and the increase of food insecurity. This in turn led to the increase of movement in and out of the camp despite government policies of lockdown. All gathering places were ordered to close including schools, mosques and churches.



The lockdown and need for social distancing has meant that many of our usual activities in Yida were suspended for the period covered by this report. Clearly football/volleyball training and other group recreational activities would not be appropriate at this time. In keeping with our mission to support young people who have been displaced by conflict we have continued to provide activities and deliver services which promote health and social welfare, develop the capacity and skills of the young people we work with, and provide information which will improve their living conditions and wellbeing. In the interests of transparency, our recent fundraising campaigns have been clear that the sports programmes are temporarily suspended but that we are continuing to meet our mission in the ways described below.

Despite limited funding, Green Kordofan introduced bubble groups to support the most vulnerable members of the communities we serve. Thankfully during this time, commercial flights are operating to and from South Sudan to some regional countries, though there are no direct flights to the UK. This has enabled us to continue sending essential supplies to the Camp.

## **Our successes:**

### **1. Enhancements to GK facilities in Yida**

Following successful negotiations with the local government, GK has been allocated a bigger space in the camp. Our senior coach co-ordinator now lives in the GK space and we have also obtained a 40 ft shipping container to provide storage for our sports equipment and supplies. The recent improvement in the compound has raised spirits, particularly the gift of the container. With the enhanced space available we are working towards a new build with appropriate sanitation facility to improve the hygiene facilities for the children we work with. The additional space helps us to meet the needs of more children and young people and will be invaluable when we can fully return to our sports programming.



*40ft shipping container to serve as on-site storage - a gift from Legacy donations for Yida*

## **2. Campaign to spread awareness and fight false information about COVID 19**

During the first three months of lockdown, the whole world was chaotic as we woke up to the many challenges presented by a global pandemic. The initial goal was to source reliable information and I connected with Network of Doctors Org which provides information dedicated to refugees globally. We also networked the Sudanese media in Sudan and South Sudan to obtain regular updates on the situation in the region. Our friends there were amazing!

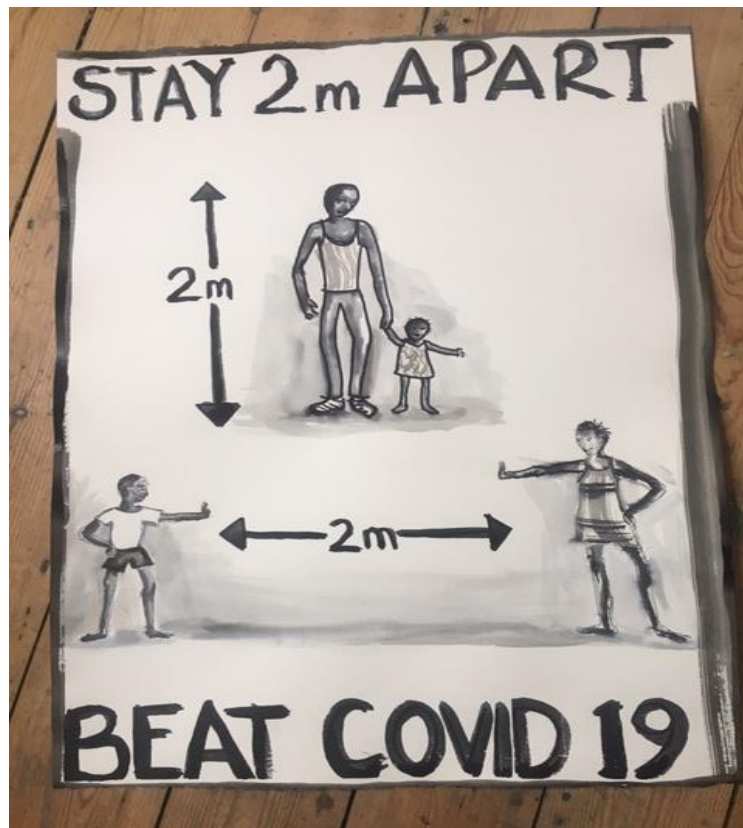
We have been working to build alliances with the local authority in Yida and other NGOs to share resources and information to maximise the impact of our campaign. GK is collaborating with the Yida Camp Manager Mubarak Boils Tutu, and with other agencies operating in Yida Camp such as Care and JamJam community radio, to raise awareness and support people as much as possible as they face these new challenges on top of the existing ones. Mubarak attended talks, open days and other activities arranged by GK and others to educate the community in the prevention and symptoms of COVID-19.



*The Camp Manager, Mubarak Boils Tutu, at talk about COVID-19 regulations*

Staff and volunteers have done amazing work identifying cases and delivering the appropriate assistance. Sabri, a new staff member did impressive work recording and documenting cases.

The next step was to engage and mobilise the young people in the camp to keep themselves and their community safe. Beginning in March 2020 we organised a youth-led campaign to fight false information and to educate the community about COVID-19. In preparing materials for our campaign we were supported by three fantastic Artists - Aida Silvestri, Felicity Allen and Darrie Payne - who produced beautiful, informative and creative artwork for our leaflets which the children and adults in the camp love.



*COVID-19 poster drawing courtesy of Felicity Allen*



*COVID-19 poster drawing images is courtesy to Aida Silvestri*



The young people we work with distributed the leaflets, many using the bicycles we sent to the camp following our fundraising efforts in previous years.



*Volunteers distribute leaflet & soaps to reduce preventable hygiene-related diseases*

We also distributed soap to assist with hygiene and the spread of the virus. New Trustee and friend Jane Champion organised a fundraiser in her garden and raised £1524.15 for soap and we received good publicity from the event. This soap was much appreciated by the women in Yida who have been struggling with the shortage of hygienic products during this particularly difficult time. We also distributed clothing and in some cases contributed to essential medical treatment.



*Soap distribution 2020*

Communication has been key during this time and we are proud that most staff are able to connect both within Yida and with the Director in the UK using Facebook and WhatsApp despite a shortage of IT equipment and internet facilities. The staff are sharing resources and working excellently as a team, led by David who continues to receive support from Raga and Alhadi and also from peer organisations within Yida.

The campaign was recognised by a journalist who became aware of our work and made a film of it for the BBC which was released on 8th of July 2020. This can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ga3pcblJo3I>

The film showcases how GK worked to raise awareness in the camp and how our young people are helping in the fight against fake news. Our young people are seen cycling around the camp, presenting accurate news about the virus and sharing information leaflets. We are proud to have contributed to a reduction in the confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Yida refugee camp in South Sudan.

### **3. Workshop program**

We provided several workshops for the young people which also engaged leaders in the community. In addition to basic skills and health and safety presentations, Manahil led an excellent music workshop for the children which was a significant boost to their mental health and wellbeing.

### **4. Visibility of the charity and fundraising**

Increasing the visibility of GK is essential to its success. We are entirely dependent on donations to carry out our work and this necessitates continual focus on increasing awareness of the situation in Yida and of our efforts to empower and support of the community there. We also believe that the campaigning work of the Director benefits the UK community by providing education about the region and opportunities to get involved and make a difference. The pandemic and subsequent lockdowns limited opportunities for events in 20/21 but some of our activities are listed below:

- **Raga spoke at the Khartoum Offside/Women in sport panel discussion** - This event was organised by Canadian based charity "Never Again Coalition" 25/7/2020
- **The swim fundraiser** - 7th of July 2020 - raised £2,137.65
- **The Two Cities Run** - a very popular event supported by our Refugee Tales - Rashid and Asme both completed a half marathon, Rashid in Birmingham and Asme in Leicester - Sunday, 6/12/2020 which raised amazing £405.00 for GK
- **GREEN KORDOFAN GLOBAL LIVE EVENT ON ZOOM!** 21/9/2020 title: YIDA, A REFUGEE CAMP IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC  
This very successful event was dedicated to the support of children, women and vulnerable people in Yida camp, South Sudan who have experienced and are still dealing with the impact of a global pandemic.
- **A safe space for women and child refugees:** a film made to raise awareness kindly supported by actress Niamh Lynch on 15/11/2020. This is an ongoing work at Vimeo. It was created to boost our campaign for a self-care facility for women and girls in Yida.

Our aim is to continue strengthening existing alliances and create new ones in Kent and throughout the U.K. through sports, arts and community events. Alongside the need to respond to the extraordinary circumstances we are currently in, we have continued to raise funds and send equipment to Yida for our sports programmes. Despite the lockdown we have had some success in soliciting donations and arranging for much-needed supplies to be sent to the camp. See below for pictures of some of the results of our efforts:

A very successful fund and awareness raising event by our friend and supporter Jessica Hynes:

## "There she goes!" – twelve times around Folkestone Harbour...

by Andrew South

**BAFTA-winning actress and Folkestone resident Jessica Hynes certainly went that extra mile recently to help the Folkestone Community Hub – four miles to be exact.**

The star of popular series such as *2012, W1A, Years and Years* and most recently, *There She Goes* – the heart-warming but at times brutally honest depiction of a family with a severely learning-disabled daughter – waded in to help the community by swimming four miles – or 12 laps – around Folkestone Harbour.

"I was in the water for four hours," Jessica told *The Looker*. "David, the coastguard watched me the whole time to ensure I did the right distance. I had intended to swim from the Hythe Imperial to Sunny Sands, but David was concerned about the weather, the current and the waves, so the Harbour seemed to be the safer option..."

Jessica undertook the challenge to raise funds for two worthy causes – the Folkestone Community Hub where she had volunteered, and Green Kordofan, a charity which champions sport and personal development for displaced children forced to flee civil war in Sudan, established by its director Raga Gibreel in Folkestone.

"I met Raga through a mutual friend, and we were having a walk one day and we were feeling sad because that friend had died," Jessica told *The*



and I decided to do a sponsored swim to raise funds for Green Kordofan and the Folkestone Covid Hub. I plucked a figure out of the air and came up with four miles, not really knowing how far that would be!

"I had volunteered at the Folkestone Covid Hub for a month at the start of the lockdown, and saw for myself how committed these great people were, doing really good, important work for the community."

As far away from Folkestone Harbour as one could imagine – physically, economically and culturally – are the Nuba Mountains in the South Kordofan region of South Sudan, where thousands of people have been forced to flee the civil war and are now living in refugee camps.

"I had been inspired by the 2012 Olympics in London, and saw how powerful sport could be in bringing people together and breaking down barriers," Raga told me. "Sport is a great way to connect people with their past, their heritage, and in a peaceful way."

Originally a journalist and having studied Science & Technology at Sudan and Reading Universities, she had established some important and useful connections.

"I learned from organisations such as International Day of Peace [a United Nations project] and Peace One Day. And now we are working in the Yida Refugee Camp where more than 46,000 people live in the most challenging conditions, half of which are aged from five to 17. We've engaged with people on the ground and developed connections, in the knowledge that sport inspires a culture of peace and teamwork, boosts self-esteem as well as physical and mental health."

Green Kordofan, which now has five staff and 40 volunteers at Yida, has been able to run a girls' volleyball team, 38 boys and girls' football teams and provide children with support around issues such as HIV, social equity and conflict resolution – which sound like much more positive things to do than kill your fellow man.

Of course, Jessica's swim will now go down in the history of Folkestone's sporting folklore, but she did admit that she needed a little encouragement...

"I was kept alive and energised by regular supplies of jelly beans and Kit-Kats, which I found very easy to eat in the water. Apparently, Channel swimmers have to train to eat in the water, but I found that eating Kit-Kats was second nature to me – who knew?!"

"It was a lovely event, and we were so grateful to everyone who came along and supported us, but it was also a way of reminding myself about what really is important now, which is just to take care of each other..."

Wise words indeed.

At the time of writing, Jessica's JustGiving sites have raised more than £2,100 for Green Kordofan (target £1,500) and £1,135 for the Folkestone Community Hub (target £800), and you can still donate to these excellent causes by searching for Jessica Hynes at [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com).

## Funding awarded to get the inactive active

By Jan Holben

Since March the three community hubs which were set up to support the many people and families who were shielding as well as those people who for various reasons were unable to access their medications or food deliveries, have been working full-on, taking thousands of calls from residents who needed help or support.

As calls to the community hubs for support are reducing, and the volunteers themselves return to their own workplace – funding recently awarded by the National Lottery funding from Sport England's Tackling Inequalities Fund of £17,015 will be used to tackle inactivity as a result of the impact of the virus. The new funding will allow the partner organisations to offer free activities for various ages with the aim of rebuilding confidence in leaving home, reducing loneliness and improving the mobility of those who have been self-isolating. Activities such as seated exercises in the park as well as putting on football and sports sessions for young age groups

will be among the activities offered. Going for walks with people who have not been outside their own homes for months is also part of the plan to boost health and well-being. Councillor Jenny Hollingsbee, FHDC Cabinet member for Communities said: "This funding is very welcome. We know that many of our residents, who have had to self-isolate, are anxious about going out again and are at risk of feeling cut off from their local communities. Something as simple as a visit to someone alone at home can make such a huge difference. Helping those who have become immobile in their homes and supporting with socially distanced walks will assist hugely in building confidence and increasing mobility."

Tim Hollingsworth, Sport England's Chief Executive, said: "We are proud to be able to provide funding and support to the Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh community hubs in this difficult period. This funding will help support our valuable community infrastructure that is so important in keeping the nation active and will also provide important connections and re-connections for people whose lives have been affected by Covid-19 and for whom remaining active is so important for their physical, mental and social well-being."

Page 22



Donation of clothing, shoes, footballs, thanks to Ben Van Nes and Paul Watson!





*New workshop chairs*



*Thank you for the football, it brings me so much joy!*





*Asme raising funds for GK Sept- 2020- The two cities Run!*



*In the launch of memoirs of WW11 by R. A. Bishop - thank you for a Legacy fundraiser!*

**A special gratitude to** those of you who participated in our small trial of reading for children in Yida, we look forward to sharing this with the children.

We would like to thank the family of Margaret Hart for their generous donation in her memory.

Margaret's daughter wrote:

'She (Margaret) was born in London to a poor family. She married and had 3 daughters and was a devoted mother and grandmother...She was very kind-hearted and cared a lot about what happened to children. When she saw on TV news of wars and famines, she was very upset, especially for the children affected which is why she would be very happy to think that money she left when she died was being used to help young people in a refugee camp.

Also, the Family of Mr. R. A. Bishop for chosen Green Kordofan as a charity to support. The donation made from their legacy made it possible for Green Kordofan to deliver the container, thank you!

### **Volunteers Are Priceless**

Volunteers are a vital resource in both our fundraising and community work. Collectively they contribute an average of 60 hours per month. Most of our work is carried out by volunteers - day-to-day work, administration, digital support, managing social media accounts transporting goods, packaging, participating at events, editing support, funding applications.

Since lockdown the Warren Brothers and then Emma Parson helped us with money transfers to South Sudan including staff wages which saved us a huge amount of money which used to be spent on transport.

We also continued to receive guidance for keeping our financial records both here and in South Sudan by John Stokes. Raga received invaluable support with research from Steve Bishop particularly in the areas of logistics and finding appropriate freight companies. Also, Celia and Geoff continue to help with transporting goods from Sussex during this challenging time. Many helped with fundraising by spreading the word through social media.

We are so grateful to Helen Sharp for hosting the Peace Event and her support with media and outreach, Audrey Green Oak and many others.


Madeleine Duggan who produced a film to promote the swim fundraiser, credit to Fides Films (@fidesfilms.com), see the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-s1nmMv3Cq8>

Green Kordofan has made an impact on the lives of people in Yida Camp thanks to the support and contributions of so many: - the Folkestone MP, The Town Mayor of Folkestone, the local Folkestone Race organisers & donors led by Ray Johnson of Folkestone Rotary Club; the Media and local advocates, a brilliant network of artists from Kent; local schools; runners, friends and sponsors.

Green Kordofan has benefitted enormously from all the skills, commitment and enthusiasm that volunteers, individuals and groups bring to our charity.

Despite the obvious difficulties, which everyone and every organisation has experienced, we remained strongly connected and committed to delivering the best we can to help the communities we passionately support!

## Financial Review

Income items	£	£	Expenditure	£
	2020-21	2019-20		2020-21
Voluntary	£18,230.79	£19,091.80	Transactions fees	£1,184.17
Charitable Grants etc.	£6,300.00	£0.00	Charitable activities	£4,218.85
Donations of Goods for S Sudan	£3,392.50	£5,550.00	Donated Goods sent to S Sudan	£3,392.50
Other (Mostly Paypal Donations)	£447.02	£380.81	Charity running costs	£469.66
Sales of Donated Goods	£0.00	£450.00	Wages and other costs for S Sudan etc	£8,807.28
Expenses not claimed and Loan	£3,905.00	£956.07	Building works in S Sudan	£14,698.24
Soap Campaign	£1,524.15	£0.00	Soap Campaign for Covid Prevention	£511.88
			Purchase of Posters	£405.99
Sale of T Shirts	£0.00	£550.00	Purchase of T shirts	£34.00
Total income	£33,799.46	£26,978.68	Total expenditure	£33,722.57
Total income	£33,799.46	£26,978.68	Opening Balance	£891.31
Total expenditure	£33,722.57	£28,147.88	This year's Surplus/(Deficit)	£76.89
NET INCOME BALANCE	£76.89	-£1,169.20	Closing Balance	£968.20
			Made up of:	01/04/2021
			Bank Balance	£325.00
			Cash in hand Balance in SS (USD)	£633.29
			Paypal balance	£9.91
			Closing Balance	£968.20
Signed: 				
Date: 15. Sept.2021				

## GREEN KORDOFAN

Income items	£ 2020-21	£ 2019-20	Expenditure	£ 2020-21	£ 2019-20
Voluntary	£18,230.79	£19,091.80	Transactions fees	£1,184.17	£1,169.36
Charitable Grants etc.	£6,300.00	£0.00	Charitable activities	£4,218.85	£8,530.91
Donations of Goods for S Sudan	£3,392.50	£5,550.00	Donated Goods sent to S Sudan	£3,392.50	£5,550.00
Other (Mostly Paypal Donations)	£447.02	£380.81	Charity running costs	£469.66	£2,944.07
Sales of Donated Goods	£0.00	£450.00	Wages and other costs for S Sudan empl	£8,807.28	£9,476.56
Expenses not claimed and Loans	£3,905.00	£956.07	Building works in S Sudan	£14,698.24	
Soap Campaign	£1,524.15	£0.00	Soap Campaign for Covid Prevention	£511.88	
			Purchase of Posters	£405.99	
Sale of T Shirts	£0.00	£550.00	Purchase of T shirts	£34.00	£476.98
Total income	£33,799.46	£26,978.68	Total expenditure	£33,722.57	£28,147.88
			Opening Balance	£891.31	£2,060.51
Total income	£33,799.46	£26,978.68	This year's Surplus/(Deficit)	£76.89	-£1,169.20
Total expenditure	£33,722.57	£28,147.88	Closing Balance	£968.20	£891.31
NET INCOME BALANCE	£76.89	-£1,169.20	Made up of:	01/04/2021	31/03/2020
			Bank Balance	£325.00	£852.47
			Cash in hand Balance in SS (USD)	£633.29	£0.00
			Paypal balance	£9.91	£38.84
			Closing Balance	£968.20	£891.31

Signed:



Date:15.09.21



## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Green Kordofan**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Green Kordofan for the year ended 31 March 2021.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 Trust'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 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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:



Name: Stephen John Stokes

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies: ACMA

Address: 104 Stade Street, Hythe, Kent, CT21 6DY

Date: 14/08/2021