

# TWINS

Bringing Schools  
Together



[www.twins.org.uk](http://www.twins.org.uk)

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE PERIOD**

**1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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<b>Trustees</b>	William Oswald Ashley Gray Bryony Croft
<b>Managing Trustee</b>	William Oswald
<b>Registered Office</b>	Newstead House Bitteswell Lutterworth Leicestershire LE17 4SG
<b>Bankers</b>	National Westminster Bank plc 15 Bull Ring Ludlow Shropshire SY8 1AG
<b>Accountants</b>	Ashmole & Company Manchester House Grosvenor Hill Cardigan SA43 1HY
<b>UK Registered Charity Number</b>	1160469
<b>Further Information</b>	<a href="http://www.twins.org.uk">www.twins.org.uk</a>

## Introduction

Twins links schools between the UK and areas of natural disaster/general need for practical support, educational interaction and cultural understanding. It was initially established in reaction to the effects of the Asian tsunami on schools in Southern Sri Lanka and about 200 schools were twinned. More recently, pilot projects have been established in Pakistan, Somalia, Somaliland and Yemen.

## Activities

The fundamental aim of Twins is to establish mutual understanding and friendship between children of different cultures and religions, through educational and social interaction. This is achieved through various collaborative programmes, some of which are compatible with inclusion in UK national curricula, in recognition of how little spare time schools have available. Details of the programmes are provided to schools through an online schools resources area on the charity's website. There is also a fundraising and expenditure element, but much effort is made to avoid dependency and co-dependency mindsets through overly focusing on this element.

An underlying principle of the Twins fundraising model is that every penny raised by a UK school is spent directly on its own 'twin' school. Nothing is taken by Twins for administration and funds are not spread between schools. This means that everything raised by UK school communities is spent on those with whom they are building direct relationships overseas. The purchase of items such as IT and sports equipment, generators and water-coolers, even classroom construction, is carried out by project management according to strict controls (Twins never gives cash to schools).

A coincidental result of Twins' more recent activities is that it has become a conduit for friendship and understanding between children of Christian and Muslim cultures. While the fostering of intercultural/faith relationships was always an aim of Twins, it was perhaps a less urgent mission in relation to Twins' operations in primarily Buddhist and Hindu Sri Lanka. The more recent projects in Pakistan, Somalia, Somaliland and Yemen come at a particularly important time for understanding and cooperation between moderate majorities. Positive interaction between children at such a formative age can be invaluable.

Twins also contributes to efforts to ensure that girls have access to education and that the education received by boys is balanced and progressive. Twins' local partner for Pakistan, DIL Trust UK, has established 120 schools there, educating thousands of boys and girls who might otherwise receive only narrow religious educations or be denied education completely. Education is key to building happy, prosperous and peaceful communities, with positive global relationships and citizens who are less likely to take terrible risks to try to start lives in other countries.

## Governance & Management

Twins has three trustees; Ashley Gray, Bryony Croft and William Oswald, the last of whom manages the charity on a daily basis. Twins has four patrons; Field Marshal Lord Guthrie, Edward Gould, Rageh Omaar and Shehan Ratnavale. Twins has a Constitution drawn up by William Oswald and legal advisors Shearman & Sterling. Twins was founded in 2005 as a community project and registered as a charity in 2015.

Twins works with local partners in each overseas country, using a comprehensive set of Standard Operating Procedures. These 'SOPs' detail all of the processes involved, along with providing templates to be used and other relevant information, notes and references. They have been designed to be sufficiently generic, such that they could be used in relation to any overseas country for which a partner is available. The SOPs and other related items are posted in an online management resources area, accessible through the Twins website.



The Trustees present their Report together with the Financial Statements for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

### Activities

The Charity continued to link schools between the UK and areas of natural disaster/general need for practical support, educational interaction and cultural understanding. During the period, the Charity continued to operate the four pilot projects (Twins Pakistan, Twins Somalia, Twins Somaliland and Twins Yemen), enabling the schools concerned to continue both with fundraising activities and with educational and social interaction. The Charity retained its account with charity donations website 'JustGiving' (<https://www.justgiving.com>).

The Charity also helped to facilitate the *Jenny Walton Masters Women's Health Education Project* (<https://mam.org.mm/news/jenny-walton-masters-women-s-health-education-project>), operated by fellow charity Medical Action Myanmar (<https://mam.org.mm/>). Twins' role in this included identifying the operating partner, liaising with it over the creation of the project and acting as a conduit for the donated funds involved. Though differing from the Charity's mainstream activities relating to schools, this activity was consistent with the two of the Charity's five Objects stated in its Constitution; "*Prevention and alleviation of poverty caused by poor educational opportunity, by providing equipment and educational facilities necessary for improving social conditions*" and "*Relief of suffering as a result of financial hardship, through the provision of educational opportunities and facilities*". Furthermore, although the recipients of the education involved in the project tend to be adults, the project's beneficiaries include (their) children.

### School Donations and funding of administrative costs

The core focus of Twins is educational and social interaction between the children involved. However, there is also the facility for UK children to raise funds to help improve the lives of the children at the schools with which they are twinned. Twins maintains a policy of ring-fencing funds received from each UK school's donations for expenditure on the specific overseas school with which that UK school is twinned. There is no 'pooling' between schools and Twins does not use any such funds for its own administrative costs. All funds received by Twins from UK schools' donations are remitted to the relevant country project partners for expenditure on items to benefit the appropriate overseas schools.

Accordingly, funds received by Twins from UK schools (or from non-school donors, but designated for specific overseas schools) are held and accounted for separately, in a similar manner to that of a 'client account'. At the beginning of the period, the Charity was holding £173.64 in schools' donations, pending remittance to the relevant country project partners. During the period, the Charity received an additional £21,467.71. This included £4,667.71 in schools' donations, being £4,708.95 in schools' donations, less £41.24 deducted in fees and disbursements by JustGiving before funds were remitted to the Charity. It also included £16,800.00, with no deductions, donated for the *Jenny Walton Masters Women's Health Education Project* ('JWM WHEP'). The Charity therefore had a total of £21,641.35 in donations for schools and JWM WHEP, to remit to country project partners. £20,822.99 of this was remitted during the period (including all funds for JWM WHEP), with the remaining £818.36 carried over into the next period. (As bank international transfer fees tend to be similar, regardless of the sizes of amounts being transferred, funds for remittance are sometimes retained until remittance amounts are sufficient to justify related transfer fees).

The Charity started the period with administrative funds (from general donations in earlier periods) of £1,204.56 and received a further £2,009.18 in general donations to the Charity. During the period, the Charity spent £236.00 in subscriptions (£216 JustGiving and £20 British Yemeni Society). All other administrative costs were directly covered privately by the Managing Trustee. The Charity ended the period with administrative funds of £2,977.74.

## Review of the Charity

The Charity will remain open to receiving general funding. If any such funding is sufficiently large and ongoing, the Charity may use it to increase administrative resources, in order to expand operations within current country projects and to extend operations to new country projects. Otherwise, the Charity will not subject itself to any substantial ongoing expenditure commitments and will limit one-off expenditure items to those that can be afforded with existing funds. Through this policy and with most administrative costs covered directly privately by the Managing Trustee, the Charity will remain sustainable and financially secure.

By Order of the Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'William Oswald', is written above the printed name.

William Oswald  
Trustee  
17.01.24



**TWINS****INCOME AND EXPENDITURE****GENERAL ACCOUNT** (See notes on previous page)**2023****2022****Income**

General Donations

£2,009.18

£40.26

**Expenditure**JustGiving card processing & transaction fees  
(Amounts taken at source by JustGiving)

-

£00.77

Subscriptions

£236.00

£236.00

£236.00

£236.77

**Funds remaining at period end**

£2,977.74

£1,204.56

**SCHOOL (AND OTHER PROJECT) DONATIONS** (See notes on previous page)**Income**

Donations, Grants &amp; Gift Aid related to specific schools/projects

£21,508.95

£14,271.14

**Expenditure**JustGiving card processing & transaction fees  
(Amounts taken at source by Just Giving)

£41.24

£139.49

**Net Donations Received**

£21,467.71

£14,131.65

**Funds Disbursed Through Local Partners**

Twins Pakistan Project

-

£436.34

Twins Somalia Project

-

-

Twins Somaliland Project

-

-

Twins Yemen Project

£4,022.99

£13,765.92

Jenny Walton Masters Women's Health Education Project

£16,800.00

-

£20,822.99

£14,202.26

**Funds remaining held for schools at period end**

£818.36

£173.64

## BALANCE SHEET

In approving these Accounts as Trustees of the Charity we hereby confirm:

- Approved by the Board of Trustees on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

1

) Trustees

