

The Children of Sikkim

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



TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT PERIOD 6 April 2016 to 31 December 2016

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	1 st June 2013 to 31 st May 2016 Reappointed 1 st June 2016 to period end	
Barbara Taylor (retired)		1 st June 2013 to 31 st May 2016	
Duncan Macdonald Finlayson	Secretary and Treasurer	28 th October 2014 to period end	
Paul Thomson		1 st March 2016 to period end	
Amy Finlayson		1 st March 2016 to period end	

At the trustees meeting of 16th March 2016, the accounting period was changed from the fiscal to the calendar year. This report therefore covers the nine-month period to 31 December 2016.

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 trustees.

As set out in the previous annual report, the background is:

1. The Friends of Sikkim Himalayan Academy (FSHA) was established in UK by Magi Finlayson in 2003 as a means of supporting the school of the same name in Sikkim, North-East India. She was a founding organiser of the school, with 25 years' experience as a primary teacher. The school educates children aged 5 to 12. The UK activities consist of seeking out sponsors, ad-hoc fund raising and organising volunteers, as well as approximately bi-annual visits. These activities have operated in cooperation with a Dutch charitable trust, Stichting Kinderen van Sikkim (SKvS), with 4 trustees one of which is Magi Finlayson.
2. In July 2013 the accumulated funds of FSHA were incorporated into the The Children of Sikkim trust. The name reflects the fact that in latter years a second smaller school has been established in the north of Sikkim, meaning that SHA is not the only beneficiary. Also, some of the first intake have moved on to secondary school, where they continue to be supported.

31 Lower Stoke, Limpley Stoke, Bath BA7 2FR

w the-children-of-sikkim.org e trustees@the-children-of-sikkim.org

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3. Sikkim Himalayan Academy has been unable to obtain registration under the FCRA (Foreign Contributions Registration Act). After a period transmitting funds and delegating management to Building Blocks, an educational charity based in Bangalore, both SKvS and The Children of Sikkim decided to discontinue funding SHA. Since February 2016 the sponsorship income and the accumulated reserves have been directed towards supporting Sikkimese children at Dr Graham's Homes school and in further education.

SECTION C Objectives and activities

The Objects of The Children of Sikkim charity

The Objects remain unchanged for now, as follows:

To advance the education of pupils at Sikkim School, 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 or contributing towards the cost of teachers, equipment, buildings and boarding facilities at the school;
3. 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;

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.

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However, the trustees passed a special resolution on the 12 April 2017 to modify the Objects to remove the references to Sikkim School (aka Sikkim Himalayan Academy). This change requires the permission of the Charity Commission, to be sought by the Secretary.

Summary of main activities undertaken for the public benefit

From 2003 to end 2015 The Friends of Sikkim, succeeded by The Children of Sikkim, supported Sikkim Himalayan Academy, which was founded in 2003 by Sikkimese, Dutch and UK and individuals. It educates children from the age of 5 to 12. From January 2016, the Trust has had to adopt a different approach, which is to fund poor Sikkimese children from about 10 years and older, through schooling to age 19 and then on through higher education. Schooling is at Dr Graham's Homes school in Kalimpong just south of Sikkim.

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Children to send to DR Grahams have been initially drawn from Sikkim Himalayan Academy, but the Trust has contacts in several schools in Sikkim for use in the future.

During 2016, the Trust paid for 6 children to attend Dr Graham's Homes School.

Previous sponsored children have entered higher education in Sikkim, Kolkota, Bangalore and Delhi. Money for this comes from sponsors 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 the nine months to end 2016 the charity continued to maintain and if necessary replace sponsors, who make a regular contribution to support the education of a named child. 6 pupils are supported at Dr Graham's Homes school in Kalimpong. Each pupil is supported by up to 6 sponsors. Sponsorship is collected for 3 pupils at Dzongu school in Sikkim.

SECTION E Financial review

The period was one of nine months from 6 April 2016 to 31 December 2016. Future periods will be the calendar year. The income for the period was £ 4197.96. Costs were £ 6949.52. The current account held £ 4860.10 at the end of the period, and the deposit accounts £44799.78. The reserves will if necessary be run down gradually to make up for any shortfall in sponsorship income.

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	1 May 2017	1 May 2017