

## **Annual Report and Accounts**

September 2019 to August 2020



*Creating storybooks during the Covid-19 pandemic at the Diapalante Community Education Centre in Kaolack, Senegal.*

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## Diapalante's Objectives

To further charitable purposes which relieve or combat malnutrition, hunger, disease, sickness or distress.

To help prevent or relieve poverty or financial hardship by providing or assisting in the provision of education, training, healthcare projects and any necessary support, enabling individuals to generate a sustainable income and be self-sufficient.

## Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name Diapalante

**Charity Number** Registered Charity in England and Wales No 1112875

**Address:** Kirby Manor 73 High Street Ashwell Herts SG7 5NP

Charity Trustees as at 31st August 2019:

Pamela Brannigan	Caroline Chandler	Elizabeth Chandler	Ian Chandler
Emily Charlton	Orlando Gibbons	Alan Muhr	Carol Muhr

## Structure, Governance and Management

Diapalante is a charitable trust governed by a Declaration of Trust dated 02/08/2005 as amended by Deed dated 04/01/2006 and by Deed dated 15/08/2012.

Diapalante is run by trustees who give of their time freely and no remuneration is paid. Trustees are appointed by the existing trustees and serve for three years after which they may be reappointed. There must always be at least three trustees. At least two ordinary meetings must be held each year to discuss future strategies and projects and fundraising.

Two of four trustees meetings and all trustee training was held online this year due to the restrictions relating to coronavirus. Meetings will remain online until the situation regarding coronavirus resolves.

# Welcome

Welcome to our report of this strange year. It has been a year of two halves. September through to the end of February was relatively normal then the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) around the world changed our lives for the rest of the year.

1

Here, in the UK, we enjoyed a successful Diapalante annual dinner and other fundraising events in the autumn before our plans for fundraising and celebrations of 15 years of Diapalante during 2020 were cancelled. As coronavirus disrupted the year fundraising quickly moved online. We thank all our supporters for your generosity and encouragement, the regular donations, the one off donations, and those donations in support of our various online antics. The face to face contact and interactions with our individual supporters have been sadly missed.

2

In Senegal the Diapalante Community Education Centre was enjoying the normal routine of its daily activities and lessons when the forceful disruption of coronavirus arrived in March. The danger the virus posed and restrictions introduced to counter it necessitated both the temporary closure of the Centre's normal functioning and the early return to the UK of Tom and Nathan, our two gap-year volunteers. The Centre, unable to resume normal activities for the rest of the year, took advantage of the space and time afforded by its general closure to run various projects which could not be fitted into the normal busy teaching day.

Sadly, in Mauritania, our long-standing partner's personal circumstances necessitated him taking this year off from both his employment and his volunteering work with us. We were glad to secure funding to support him and his family through this difficult time and he has now returned to his veterinary work. We hope to see a new Diapalante project in Mauritania post-coronavirus.

As we look forward to the next year the coronavirus cases around the world are falling, but the future is far from clear. We thank everyone who has stood with us this year and given us the confidence and courage to achieve what we can within the present restraints and plan our future steps ready for when the virus's threat has receded.

*Liz Chandler*

Elizabeth Chandler

On behalf of the trustees

1. Mauritania
2. Senegal
3. South Africa

3

# Diapalante in Senegal

## The Diapalante Community Education Centre

The Diapalante Community Education Centre is open to everyone who wants to learn, whether to improve their job prospects or their citizenship skills. This year about 350 people attended the Centre. People drop-in when they have some time to spare around their daily activities. The Centre is staffed by its co-ordinator, Mamadou Kane (aka Master P) and a team of volunteers. This team includes two fulltime gap year volunteers from the UK charity Project Trust, Tom and Nathan this year. There are also local volunteers: our teenage Young Leaders and others from the local community who lead or help with particular classes.



The opportunities to learn are varied. The computer room is well used as the average person in Senegal still has little opportunity to learn to use computers. The confidence and competence gained using them at the Centre are important in the search for office jobs. The library is also popular, with both French and English sections which cover a wide range of nonfiction topics and also fiction. French activities are popular with school children as French is the

language used in education though it is no-one's mother tongue. English lessons are full to capacity with secondary school pupils and adults as English is a major international language. Science and cultural activities are less frequently taught in their own right. These and other important skills are incorporated into the language classes.

As the coronavirus spread around the world in February we decided that if the Senegalese government shut the schools then it would be appropriate to stop classes at the Centre. Two weeks later this was the reality. Tom and Nathan were recalled by Project Trust the same week, though they would have preferred to stay on. Our thanks to them both, they did a great job in their six month stay and we hope they will get the opportunity to return some day.

The epidemic created the space within a very quiet Centre for activities that normally can't be fitted into a busy day. Diapalante Senegal produced a 10 year plan mapping their future outreach. A team of previous volunteers in the UK, Young Leaders in the Centre and volunteer illustrators in the UK have been working together though many miles apart, to produce storybooks written with young Senegalese readers in mind. These books are very much needed. They are available online at [www.Africanstorybook.org](http://www.Africanstorybook.org) and can be printed for use offline. Thank you to everyone who was involved in this project. Especially the team of illustrators who gave so much of their time to a project they have no direct link with. The Young Leaders were rewarded with rice for their families as many families are suffering loss of income due to coronavirus restrictions.

Diapalante also took the decision to recruit two local staff to work full time at the Centre as it is unlikely we will have any gap year volunteers from Project Trust next year. This is a major financial commitment but also a major opportunity.

With the Ten Year Plan in place we were able to identify a project which would benefit from this change and look for funding. We are hoping during the coming year, to secure funding and introduce classes teaching the talibés (young male street children) to read and write in Wolof, their mother tongue.

# This Year at the Diapalante Community Education Centre in Senegal



Sep 2019. Donated tables, chairs cupboards, and computers send from Ashwell to Senegal.



Oct 2019. Lessons in computing, English, French, literacy, maths, presentation skills, stem skills ...



Nov 2019. New books for the library from a bookshop in Dakar and from the container.



Dec 2019. Young Leaders teach children individually and in groups.



Jan 2020. A coach trip takes town children to visit a farm.



Feb 2020: Tom and Nathan teach their last classes before COVID-19.



March 2020. Centre shuts: Project Trust.recall Tom and Nathan.



April 2020: Centre shut: a small group make notelets to sell in UK.

[Diapalante Senegal: Ten Year Plan](#)

KEY PROPOSALS FOR NEXT YEAR.....

KEY LONG-TERM PROPOSALS .....

1. ACTIVITIES.....

CURRENT USE OF THE SPACE WITHIN THE CENTRE .....

CURRENT TIMETABLE .....

TABLE OF CURRENT AND PROPOSED ACTIVITIES.....

ACTIVITIES: NOTES GOING FORWARD .....

1. Current Non-teaching Projects .....
2. Current Teaching Projects –improvements and changes .....
3. Future Teaching Projects: Subjects we would like to offer .....

STAFFING FOR THE FUTURE .....

4. A Second Full time Member of Staff.....

2. GOVERNANCE .....

3. PROPERTY.....

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.....

A PURPOSE BUILT CENTRE .....

NEW CENTRE PREMISES .....

May 2020. Time to develops a 10 year plan.



The young girl dreams that one day she will have her own dressmaking business.

Jun 2020. UK and Sengalese volunteers team up to create children's storybooks.



July 2020. Bad rainy season brings exceptionally high levels of malaria, typhoid and flooding.



Aug 2020. Brightening the Centre with murals on the walls. Planning underway to teach Wolof literacy to talibés (street children) when virus allows.

## Farewell to Our Computing Expert!

Mor Talla Mboup is an example of how members both contribute to and benefit from the Diapalante Computer Education Centre. Mor Talla started coming to the Diapalante Community Education Centre in 2015 to take advantage of the free wifi. He soon joined the English for Adults group to improve his English, and so his future career options.

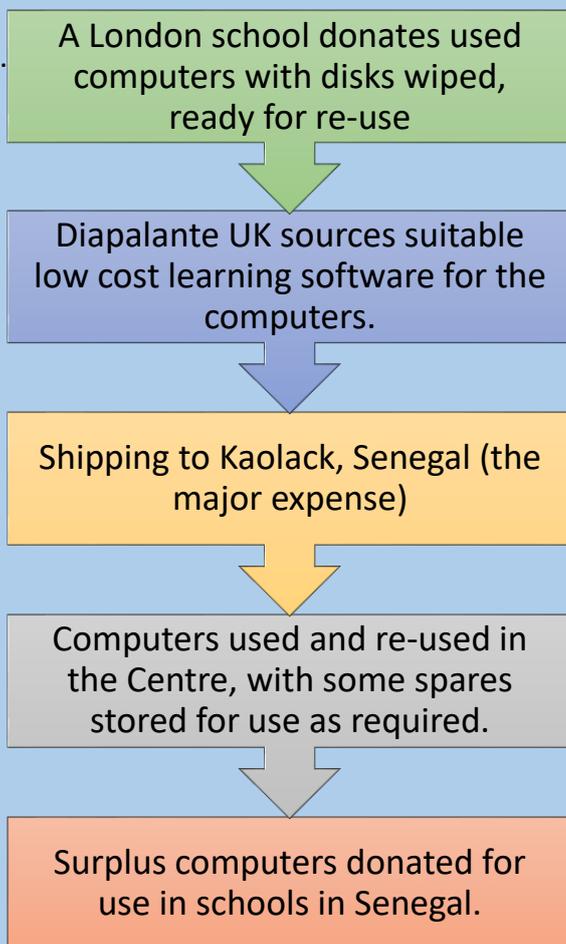
Later, he volunteered to help and organised the “computer crew” who repaired and updated the computers. Mor Talla also trained as a Young Leader at the Centre, then taught a basic electronics course. Finding he was interested in computer programming he taught himself Scratch and Arduino using the Centre’s library and resources. He encouraged many other members to complete the “Hour of Code” which is an international introduction to coding (try it yourself at [code.org](http://code.org)).

Mor Talla was one of several members to pass the Baccalaureate exams this year. The exams were delayed by coronavirus, but they were finally held during the peak of the rainy season! He gained a place on the prestigious five year engineering course at the Institut Polytechnique de Saint Louis where he will specialise in computer engineering.

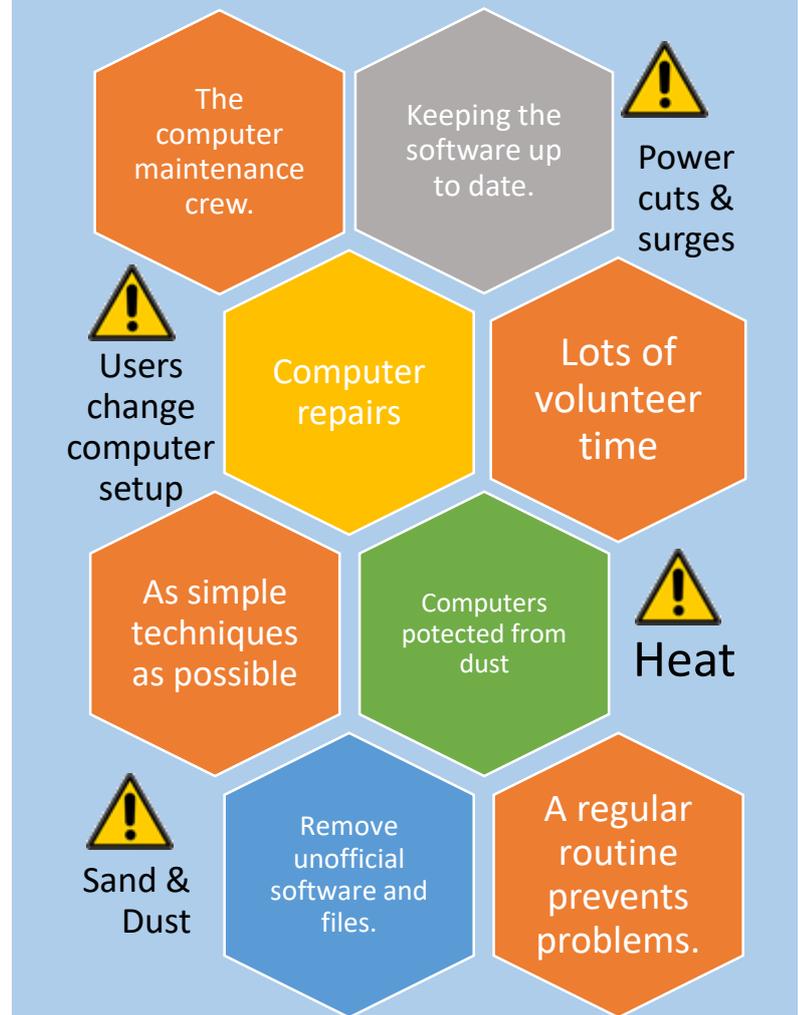
We wish Mor Talla and all our members going to university next year every success.



## Use Then Reuse Again And Again!



## Keeping The Computers Running Involves:



# South Africa

Generous donations to a restricted fund allowed us to once again support the Hillcrest Advice Bureau and Bursary Fund in the Valley of 1000 Hills in Kwa Zulu Natal. The bureau offers a range of practical support and encouragement to academically gifted but severely poor and disadvantaged young people and helps them to enter careers through tertiary qualifications.

# This Year in Mauritania

Due to difficult personal circumstances, exacerbated by the COVID-19 outbreak which hit Mauritania in April 2020, our partner in Mauritania was forced to take a break this year. Diapalante is pleased to have offered him some support through this period and we look forward to hearing of potential future projects he has been exploring.

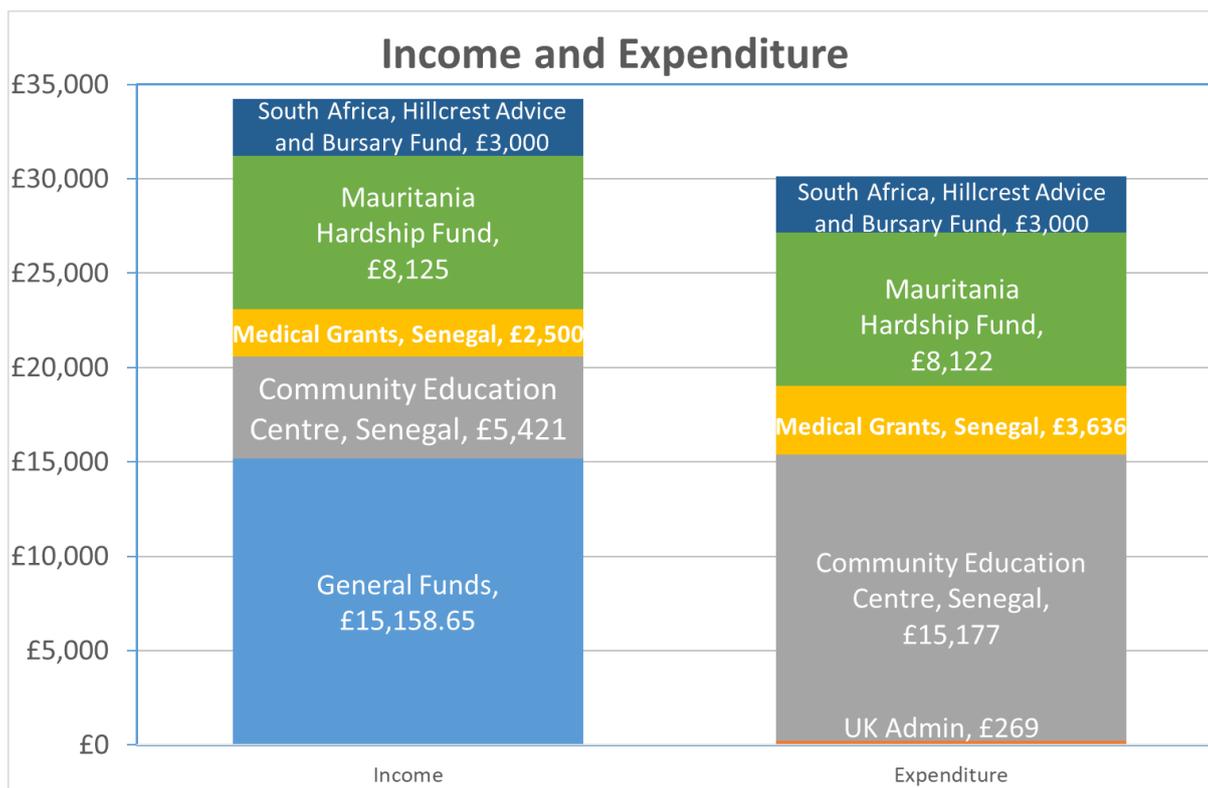
# Diapalante Council, UK

The Diapalante Council provides a resource of expertise and help to the trustees. Its members are our returned volunteers, who spent their gap year living and working at the Community Education Centre in Senegal.

This year as well as advice the Council members have again given practical support by:

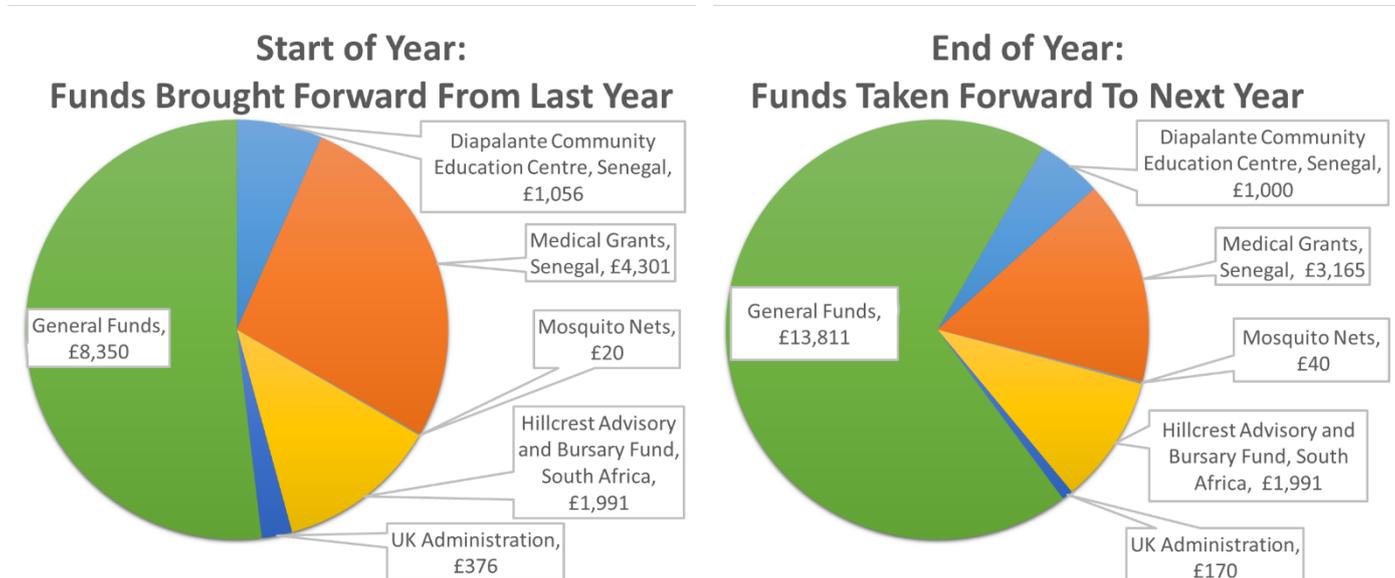
- Fundraising
- Participating in the Book Creation Project run in conjunction with the Community Education Centre during the summer. Members of the Council were instrumental in publishing the books and finding and overseeing the illustrators. Everyone involved kindly donated their time and skills.
- Refurbishing and setting up the computers at the Diapalante Centre ready for use in the coming year.

# Financial Review



Diapalante's income has been maintained through the year. The income is sufficient for us to permit the Centre in Senegal to employ the local staff it will need to re-open next year. The staff will be in place of the fulltime UK volunteers who are unavailable due to coronavirus.

All income goes into the General Fund unless the donor specifies otherwise. Diapalante also receives funds which are given for a specific purpose. These "restricted funds" are only used for the purpose for which they were given. The Diapalante Community Education Centre in Senegal was funded both from its restricted funding and from the General Fund. All the other projects were funded solely from their restricted funds.



Though coronavirus closed the doors of the Diapalante Community Education Centre, this had little effect on its overheads as we needed to retain the premises. Thank you to everyone whose contributions helped us to maintain our income, those who contributed directly and those who supported our online antics.

We are in good shape moving into next year after our appeals and fundraising, carrying forward a larger amount of unrestricted funds than in previous years. This will cover an expected reduction in income at the start of next year as the pandemic prevents the normal autumn fundraising events from being held.

Diapalante aims to hold a reserve of 6 months core expenditure. We have met this policy through the year and carry sufficient funds forward to start the new year with this reserve in place.

In considering and agreeing the activities of the charity, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

*E Chandler*

Full name(s) Elizabeth Mary Chandler

Position Trustee

Date 09.01.20

# Receipts and payments accounts



Charity Name Diapalante		No (if any) 1112875		<b>CC16a</b>
<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>				
For the period from	Period start date 01/09/2019	To	Period end date 31/08/2020	

## Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
General Funds	15,159	-	-	15,159	13,388
UK Administration	-	-	-	-	-
Community Education Centre, Senegal	-	5,421	-	5,421	7,750
Medical Grants, Senegal	-	2,500	-	2,500	9,614
Mauritania, Talibe mosquito nets	-	20	-	20	20
Mauritania Hardship Fund	-	8,125	-	8,125	3,000
South Africa, Hillcrest Advice and Bursary Fund	-	3,000	-	3,000	242
Gifts	-	-	-	-	242
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>15,159</b>	<b>19,065</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34,224</b>	<b>33,994</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>15,159</b>	<b>19,065</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34,224</b>	<b>33,994</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
General Funds	-	-	-	-	-
UK Administration	-	206	-	206	269
Community Education Centre, Senegal	9,700	5,477	-	15,177	22,069
Medical Grants, Senegal	-	3,636	-	3,636	5,423
Mauritania Hardship Fund	-	8,122	-	8,122	-
South Africa, Hillcrest Advice and Bursary Fund	-	3,000	-	3,000	2,991
Gifts	-	-	-	-	926
Mauritania talibe Project	-	-	-	-	3,165
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>9,700</b>	<b>20,441</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,141</b>	<b>34,842</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>9,700</b>	<b>20,441</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,141</b>	<b>34,842</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>5,458</b>	<b>- 1,375</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 848</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>8,350</b>	<b>7,745</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,095</b>	<b>16,943</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>13,807.91</b>	<b>6,370</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,177</b>	<b>16,095</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		13,808	6,370	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>13,808</b>	<b>6,370</b>	<b>-</b>
	<small>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</small>	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name DIA PALA NTE

On accounts for the year ended

31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2020

Charity no (if any)

111 2875

Set out on pages

1-2 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD/MM/YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [ ] if not applicable. did not CIMA

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: Jacqueline Pritchard

Date: 5/1/2021

Name: JACQUELINE PRITCHARD

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

ACMA

(if any):

Address:

6 MILL ST, ASHWGILL
BALDOCK, HERTFORDSHIRE
SG7 5LY

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.