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Legal and administrative information

Company number:

Registered in England No. 02835469

Registered charity number:

Charity Commission No. 1024903

Directors and Trustees at 31st March 2021:

Mr. Chris Merriman (Hon. Chair)
Ms. Pat Linnell (Hon. Treasurer)
Dr. Mary Bunn (Hon. Secretary)
Prof. Anne Merriman (Founder) MBE
Dr. Ged Faulks
Mr. Doug Haynes
Ms. Hannah Merriman (App. 26/10/20)
Dr. Philippa Guppy (App. 23/03/21)

Resigned

Prof. Ken Holden (27/09/20)
Ms. Clare-Marie Ion (27/09/20)
Mr. Michael Merriman (14/12/20)
Prof. David Phipps (27/09/20)
Mrs. Lesley Phipps MBE (27/09/20)
Mrs. Ann Vassie (27/09/20)

Company Secretary: Dr. Mary Bunn

Registered Office:

Holly Bank, 34 Altys Lane,
Ormskirk. L39 4RQ

Independent Examiner: Roger Hughes

Lower Farm
90 Brimstage Road, Heswall,
Wirral. CH60 1XQ

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

The Trustees, who are also the Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The AGM 2021 has been scheduled to be via zoom on Sunday 26th September 2021 at 2pm.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, governed by a *memorandum and articles of association*. The charity's object and principal activity continues to be "to provide and support the provision of palliative care to terminally ill cancer and AIDS patients and their families in the African setting".

The Trustees have continued to meet regularly to manage the affairs of the charity in the UK. The Zoom platform has been transformational in reducing a very significant amount of travel in the UK and enabling Trustees Dr. Anne Merriman and Dr. Mary Bunn to attend regularly from Africa!

We would like to give our grateful thanks for the huge contribution given to the work of Hospice Africa by retiring Trustees, Lesley and David Phipps, Ken Holden, Clare Ion, Ann Vassie, and Mike Merriman. All have given great service for many years as officers of the charity – Lesley as Chief Executive for many years and also a Board member of Hospice Africa Uganda, David as Treasurer and many years as Chair, Ken as Secretary and many years as Treasurer, Clare as Chair and Secretary, Ann as Chair and DFID Grant management overseer, and Mike as Chair and Annual Quiz Organiser at the Campion Tennis Club Venue. In addition, they have collectively invested huge amounts of time setting up, carrying out volunteer duties, and supporting the two HA Charity shops in Ainsdale and Liverpool. We are grateful for new younger Trustees, Hannah Merriman and Dr. Philippa Guppy, who have enthusiastically joined the Trustee Board with new energy and ideas. Hannah in addition to overseeing the initiative 'Give a Chance' has taken oversight of the Newsletter which has become more regular, and is also our Volunteer Co-ordinator here in the UK. Philippa, who is training as a palliative care specialist at St. Christopher's Hospice, London, is focusing on new donors and fund-raising opportunities.

We are grateful to our Hospice Africa Patrons, Bishop Vincent Malone, Canon Dr. Donald Gray and Frank Cottrell-Boyce who have kindly acted during the 2020-21 period.

We are sad to record the death of Bishop Vincent Malone in May 2020. He was a long-time supporter of Hospice Africa and a very well respected and loved leader of the Catholic Church in Liverpool. He was 88, a victim of the Covid19 virus, and will be much missed.



Bishop Vincent Malone

The Charity's work continues to be carried out entirely on a voluntary basis. The Honorary Treasurer manages the day-to-day finances of the charity. The Hon. Chair, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, with help from other Trustees, have shared the collective duties normally carried out by a Chief Executive. The Board of Trustees has the power to appoint additional Trustees as it sees fit within the remit of the Articles of Association.

The work is carried out in close partnership with the Founder, Professor Anne Merriman, and there is regular contact with Hospice Africa Uganda (HAU), which is a *non-governmental organization* and a *limited company* in Uganda. There is an AGM, normally at the end of June when Trustees, donors, supporters and Charity Shop staff meet at the Brain Charity Centre in Liverpool. In 2021, because of the Covid-19 uncertainty and concerns, the AGM will again be delivered over Zoom in September.

Hospice Africa Origins

Hospice Africa (HA) was founded in 1993 to spread the ethos and practice of palliative care in Africa. Our founder, Dr. Anne Merriman, has radically changed the provision of care for people in Africa with life-limiting illnesses. This has transformed the lives of thousands of patients, providing significantly longer life for many and allowing others a pain-free and dignified death.

Hospice Africa raises and manages funds in the UK to send out to our partners in Africa, particularly in the long-term with Hospice Africa Uganda (HAU). With our partners, we have helped to introduce palliative care directly for the first time to 35 of 54 Africa countries. In 20 of these 35 countries, affordable oral morphine, the backbone of all palliative care, is now available for pain relief.

A Year in Covid Shutdown – African and UK perspectives

Dr. Anne writes (from Uganda) a letter to the Irish Times (extracts)

There is nowhere I'd rather wait out Coronavirus than Uganda ... Sadly, we are seeing the extreme hardships imposed on people through Covid-19 movement restrictions which are preventing the very- ill, and women in labour, reaching out for help on time. The cut in transport on the roads has limited our hospice visits. Initially there was a time limit on when people could go out and people faced arrest or being beaten on the spot by the police if they breached that. Then a curfew was introduced from 7pm to 6.30am and those caught away from home are penalised.

The reality is many breadwinners have lost their jobs and social distancing is stopping them working at their trades. Families are hungry and we are worried about our 1,500 patients in the community, many who cannot come to us as outpatients, and are waiting for us to assist them with food and morphine to control their pain. We are trying our best but we are not reaching all our patients, who are suffering hunger as well as illness, even with the help from one of the banks donating food, and a smaller amount donated by the Government. It is heart-breaking, and I feel guilty.

Hospice Africa Uganda (HAU) was already in financial difficulties due to a reduction in donor funding. Now we face additional financial burdens, with the extra costs of securing PPE and food required for the hungry. We are worried that patients could die of starvation before treating their cancer. Food and morphine for the severe pain have now to be delivered by boda boda.

Charities in the UK and throughout the world are in a precarious position because their normal income is threatened, and reserves are limited. For Hospice Africa in the UK, the two charity shops have been closed for a full year and income has been significantly reduced, noting a contribution from Liverpool City Council. The charity shops have since been opened and much hard work is taking place to restore their full operation with social distancing and other health and safety requirements whilst Covid-19 risk remain. Particular thanks go to Anne Purcell and her daughter Liz at the Liverpool Shop, and Kristine Keelan and Tracy Pilkington at the Ainsdale Shop, for their enormous effort in re-establishing the work of the charity shops.



Old Swan Shop, Liverpool



Ainsdale Shop

Fund-raising events have still been possible using technology to support the fund-raising processes, but the actual fundraising events have had to be socially-distanced and are limited to personal or small group activity.

Fundraising

Second year students from Edge Hill University, Ormskirk, have been able to undertake a very successful on-line Quiz for Hospice Africa, bringing various teams from the UK, Ireland, France and the Netherlands together within a single event, and raising considerable funds. It was great fun and a new way of using the Hospice Africa Facebook page to generate support for our work.



Inspired by 'Captain Tom' and his extraordinary fundraising activity, Dr. Anne undertook her own walk in Uganda. Following a route tracing steps round the balcony of her home in Kampala, she set herself 25 laps per day for 20 days. Her target was an ambitious target of £85,000.

In spite of COVID-19 restrictions, there were several special events kindly organised by our enthusiastic supporters around the UK - including Ged Faulks, Alex Henry, Matthew Sturgeon, and David Smithard. Gemma Merriman and Catherine McNamara have made and sold face-masks to support Hospice Africa funds, to mention a few. The Trustees wish to gratefully acknowledge the support of all individuals and organizations, nationally and internationally, who have raised funds for palliative care in Africa in the last year.

Hospice Africa Quiz Maestro, John Nelson, also ran a very successful Christmas Quiz held over Zoom in December.

See screen-shot picture alongside taken during the quiz.

Thank you to all those who took part and donated to funds.



New Logo and New Website

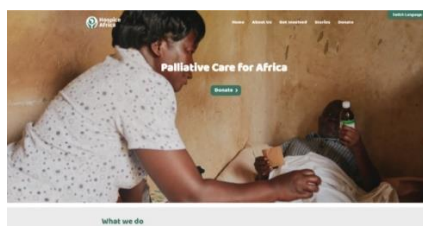
Support for the work of Hospice Africa comes from all over the world. Some development work, spear-headed by Ant Conlin, has taken place to provide a new logo and new unified website. Ant visited Hospice Africa Uganda in December 2019, and inspired by what he saw, he voluntarily invested a great deal of time and energy to oversee development of the new Hospice Africa Logo and an integrated global website.

New Logo

The new logo seeks to combine the concept of *care* with the *geographical imagery* for Africa.

New Website

The new website seeks to bring the global dimensions of the work of Hospice Africa into one website, linking supporters in the UK, France, Ireland, USA, Australia, Uganda & Africa. URL www.hospice-africa.org .



MSc. In Palliative Care

Hospice Africa Uganda have reported in their April 2021 newsletter that Education is key to making Palliative Care as available as possible. Prof. Wilson Acuda reports that the launching of the MSc. in Palliative Care in March 2021 has been seen as another significant milestone in the development of PC Services, not only in Uganda but for all of sub-Saharan Africa. It has taken a lot of hard work from current and past IHPCA members (Institute of Health and Palliative Care in Africa) to get the two-year MSc. programme to be delivered in a blended learning format. It is hoped that the MSc. will enable Palliative Care Specialists and Practitioners to emerge who, in turn, will be able to facilitate and manage the integration of palliative care into African health care systems.

Brief Financial Review

Income of the charity reduced from £233,340 last year to 208,075, with resources expended reducing from £344,267 last year to £140,298. Charitable activities totalled £126,424. supporting work primarily in Uganda and Malawi. The income exceeds expenditure by £67,777 resulting in our reserves increasing from £78,313 last year to £146,090.

The Board of Hospice Africa Uganda has reduced the staff complement significantly over the last few years, but there still remain concerns over a funding shortfall. In the UK, Hospice Africa Ltd has been using its income and reserves to ensure HAU remains solvent in the 2020-21 period.

Funding Risks

Because the Charity employs no staff, except on a voluntary basis, all of the income raised, apart from a small amount of governance expenditure, is used directly for the work of the Charity on its core objective of palliative care on the African continent. The probity exercised by UK Trustees is that funds already raised in the UK become available to send to Africa. Currently, the major focus has been to send budgeted funding to Uganda, and in a few cases, some emergency funding more widely in Africa.

Trustees are aware that there is a two-fold risk, amplified by the effects of the Covid19 virus, in the year ahead:

- an on-going deficit in Uganda, which the Board of HAU must finally bring out of deficit.
- a likely reduction in funds available in the UK, which will probably prevent HAU from promising UK support to HAU at previous funding levels.

UK Trustees are working closely with the HAU Board to try and ensure HAU continues to be viable for the patients in Uganda in the years ahead. HA UK will continue, as far as possible, to support this work and pursue the enduring vision of *palliative care for all in need in Africa*.

Auditor and Independent Examiner

A resolution proposing that 'Roger Hughes, Chartered Accountant, be reappointed as the charity's Independent Examiner' will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

This report was approved by the Board of Directors and Trustees on 16th August 2021 and signed by the Hon. Chair, Chris Merriman.

