



Council for British Research in the Levant

**(Registered Charity Number 1073015)**  
**(Company Registration Number 3566646)**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

# COUNCIL FOR BRITISH RESEARCH IN THE LEVANT

## ANNUAL REPORT

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# COUNCIL FOR BRITISH RESEARCH IN THE LEVANT

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### Council for British Research in the Levant

Registered Charity Number 1073015

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Registered Office: The British Academy  
10 Carlton House Terrace  
London SW1Y 5AH

Website: [www.cbri.ac.uk](http://www.cbri.ac.uk)

President – Professor Dawn Chatty (elected December 2022)

### Trustees

Dr Robert Bewley	Chairman (elected November 2020)
John Shakeshaft	Hon Treasurer (elected November 2020)
Professor Graeme Barker	Hon Research Chair (elected November 2021); Hon Publications Chair (elected November 2020)
Tom Thomson	Trustee with responsibility for risk governance, Hon Secretary (elected December 2022)
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Kate Owen	(elected December 2019)
Dr Rachael Sparks	(elected December 2019)
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Rev Canon David Longe	Trustee (elected December 2022)
Professor Andrew MacLeod	Trustee (elected December 2022 and resigned September 2023)
Dr Gerasimos Tsourapas	Trustee (resigned December 2022)
Dr Elian Weizman	Hon Secretary (resigned December 2022)

The trustees act as directors for the purposes of company law.

### Principal Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland Plc  
London Drummonds Branch  
49 Charing Cross Road  
London  
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### Auditors

Williamson Morton Thornton LLP  
4 Beaconsfield Road  
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### Objectives and Activities for the Public Benefit

The CBRL is established to advance public education through conducting, supporting, and promoting scholarly research in the humanities, social sciences, and related subject areas in the Levant, and the dissemination of the useful results of such research. The trustees confirm that they have taken due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the CBRL's achievements and plans. Lists of current and recent awards are published on the website, which also lists forthcoming and previous events, regular news items and blogs.

The trustees have complied with the duty to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission (section 17 of the Charities Act 2011). The trustees draw attention to the membership services detailed on [www.cbri.ac.uk](http://www.cbri.ac.uk) (provision of library services, accommodation, meeting and research space, and access to reference collections), grants and scholarships, public lectures, academic workshops, and other related events. The CBRL Library, with its branches in both institutes and combined catalogue, has reopened after closure following the COVID-19 pandemic. 2022-23 also saw the return of more in-person events. The planned renovations at the Kenyon Institute in Jerusalem are now complete, and the Amman Institute moved offices to a new location in Amman in March 2022, reopening in June 2022. CBRL journal publications have open access policies, although these are dependent on funding being arranged by the authors of papers. CBRL open access monographs published between 2000 and 2018 were moved to the JSTOR platform from the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) to improve searchability and accessibility. CBRL is actively working to make more of its back catalogue available open access online. New archaeological volumes in future will be placed directly online as open access.

### Achievements and Performance

The CBRL achieves its objectives for public benefit through a programme of conducting, sponsoring and facilitating research and the dissemination of its in-house publications (*Levant*, *Contemporary Levant*, the *CBRL Bulletin* (to 2020), and monographs) through its website, supporting publication in other outlets, by organising academic meetings, public lectures and webinars, and through the presentation of lectures on research by staff members. The website continued to be developed with additional content in 2022-23. Following the issue of an electronic *Year in Review* in December 2021, CBRL issued an electronic *Almanac* in 2022 highlighting the year's achievements and restating CBRL's updated mission, vision and objectives. These annual electronic publications replace the *CBRL Bulletin*.

2022/23 was a year of good progress on several key fronts, noting ongoing strategic priority work on CBRL's archives and the organisation of and partnership in a wide range of events and activities. A major collaborative archive initiative started with fellow British International Research Institutes (BIRI) funded by the British Academy, the joint BIRI Digital Coordination and Strategy Project, to develop a joint BIRI archive portal. CBRL has significantly contributed to and benefited from this collaboration, which reflects continuing efforts towards further collaboration between the BIRI.

The teams at CBRL's Kenyon Institute in Jerusalem and the Amman Institute were delighted to welcome several trustees in June 2022 on a visit where trustees enjoyed discussions with staff and local partners. In Jerusalem, the visit was coordinated to coincide with a keynote lecture by Dr Yusuf Natsheh on Jerusalem's Islamic architectural heritage, an event celebrating both the reopening of the Kenyon following renovations and the launch of the Islamic Jerusalem Project (IJP) funded by the AITajir Trust. The IJP project is to digitise three major publications from the British School of Archaeology surveys of Jerusalem's Ayyubid, Mamluk and Ottoman buildings and monuments and to make more accessible associated archives, starting with the Mamluk volume. In Amman, the trustees and staff visited HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal at Majlis El Hassan, patron of the Amman Institute, to mark the Institute's opening at its new location, accompanied by distinguished guests. Tours were made in both cities: to better-known sites and hidden treasures of Jerusalem's Old City; and, in Amman, highlights were a guided visit of the Jordan Museum, accompanied by the Museum's director, and a visit to the Umayyad Palace on the Amman Citadel.

In Jerusalem, hostel bookings returned to full capacity. 2022 marked the centenary of the establishment of the British Mandate in Palestine (1922-1948), and the Kenyon Institute team coordinated activities to mark the event. Three main activities were organised: a lecture in partnership with Edinburgh

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University with Dr Salman Abu Sitte as the guest speaker; the organisation of a session at the *Reassessing The British Mandate Conference* organised by the Institute of Palestine Studies held at Birzeit University, and an online webinar lecture series with four invited speakers. In addition, a conversation series bringing together scholars working on Kashmir and Palestine was run, an outcome of Dr Toufic Haddad's participation in the British Academy-CBRL Knowledge Frontiers Exchange Workshop held in Amman in January 2020, an initiative previously delayed by Covid-19. Finally, the Kenyon team co-organised the one-day conference, *Access Denied: Restrictions on International Presence in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt)* with Newcastle University.

In Amman, the team were pleased to welcome back library visitors, with the layout of the new institute offering additional workspaces and comfortable open-plan facilities. A variety of events—lectures, book launches, workshops and seminars—were organised in different formats, in-person, online and hybrid, that used the new meeting room to full effect. The 15th International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan (ICHAJ) took place at Yarmouk University, Irbid, in August 2022, and the Amman team was pleased to participate in, and contribute to, this important event for the Jordanian heritage community held every three years. The long-running Aerial Archaeology Project's 25<sup>th</sup> season occurred in November 2022, led by Robert Bewley, CBRL's Chair, with Firas Bqa'in, CBRL's Operations Manager, appointed co-director. In September, CBRL Amman signed an MoU with the Department of Antiquities of Jordan (DoA). The MoU is the first with the DoA and is intended to build on the two organisations' successful long-term collaboration formally. The Amman Institute also signed an MoU with the International Council on Monuments and Sites-Jordan (ICOMOS-Jordan) to define the relationship between the two parties. The CBRL's collaboration with the Jordan Engineers' Association continued with online events and trips and a study day in November 2022, bringing together architects from the occupied Palestinian territories and Jordan to exchange knowledge and experience in the restoration and reuse of heritage buildings.

CBRL supported and participated in the Dana+20 Workshop in September 2022 to discuss mobile indigenous peoples, conservation, sustainable development, and climate change two decades after the Dana Declaration. The workshop, with over 40 participants, including 17 representatives from indigenous peoples, was held at the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature's (RSCN) facilities in Dana Village, Dana Biosphere Reserve. In March, a follow-on interdisciplinary workshop was held at the Amman Institute to bring together social and environmental scientists living and/or working in Jordan and the wider Levant region to critically examine current understandings of and approaches to environmental conservation, agriculture and governance. Dawn Chatty, CBRL's President, was present at both Dana+20 events in 2022/23 and at the original workshop held in Dana in 2002, the 10-year anniversary workshop, and in formulating the original Dana Declaration.

In the UK, the CBRL's strategic priority around digitising archives and improving library provision continued to be led by the Strategic Projects Director, Jessica Holland, and her team. As well as a grant to fund the Islamic Jerusalem Project, given by the AlTajir Trust, an application was submitted to the British Library Endangered Archives Programme. Refurbished office facilities on the third floor at the British Academy provided comfortable working space to the London team. However, its use was disrupted by the start of building works at the Academy.

In terms of in-person events in the UK, Gerasimos Tsourapas (University of Glasgow), together with Rawan Arar (University of Washington) and Benjamin Thomas-White (University of Glasgow) coordinated a CBRL-sponsored emerging scholars' workshop, *Researching Forced Migration in the Middle East in Glasgow*, bringing together 17 researchers in Glasgow, in March 2022, including two public events. The CBRL participated in the British Academy Summer Showcase event in June 2022, the first following the pandemic, with Andrew Arsan (University of Cambridge and CBRL Research Committee) speaking on *Democracy in the Levant*.

The open grant call was successfully run, with high-quality applications, albeit with some continuing delays post-COVID, and current and past grant holders able to return to the field. The devastating earthquake in February 2023 in Türkiye and Syria impacted the plans of one researcher, with alternative plans made. CBRL continues to monitor the impact of the earthquake on the possibilities for research in the northern Levant, which is already heavily affected by the ongoing conflict in Syria and the catastrophic economic situation in Lebanon.

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### *Grantees and prize-winners*

CBRL made 15 awards (10 post-doctoral and 5 postgraduate) in 2022/2023: two network partnership awards, three project grants, one research support grant, three residential fellowships and five postgraduate travel grants. The British Academy grant fund all post-doctoral awards, and monies from membership fees, donations and unrestricted income are used to fund postgraduate grants. Grant amounts and subject matters are detailed in Note 3 of the financial statements.

CBRL awarded prizes for final-year undergraduate and Masters' dissertations in Levantine Archaeology or History and Contemporary Levantine studies. The winners receive a cash prize, CBRL membership for one year, including online subscription to one of CBRL's journals.

### Contemporary Levantine Studies Undergraduate Dissertation Prize 2022

Iona Clark University of Cambridge	Irish and Indian influences on colonial policing in British Mandate Palestine, c.1922-1939
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### Levantine Archaeology or History Dissertation Prizes 2022 (Joint Winners)

Daisy Brunt University of Durham	The Economic Impact of the Uses of Horses and Chariots in the Late Bronze Age Warfare of the Eastern Mediterranean
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Harrison Potter University of Reading	Alashiya: using the distribution of Minoan pottery to discern site hierarchy and as an indicator of authority on Late Bronze Age (c.1650-1050 BC) Cyprus
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### Contemporary Levantine Studies Master's Dissertation Prize 2022

Judith Hoppermann University of Glasgow	The Impact of Colonialism and Neoliberalism on Agriculture in the Occupied West Bank: A Sector Between Competing Visions of Palestine
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Plus, a commendation to Hannah Schutt (University College London) for her dissertation, "Mapping movement, mapping resistance: A counter-mapping of the Mediterranean Sea through mobilities and mobilisations".

### Levantine Archaeology or History Master's Dissertation Prize 2022

Richard Pearson University College London	Identifying Pastoralism and Sedentarisation through Sheep Isotope (87SR/86SR) Analysis at Late Bronze II-Iron I Transition Tall al-'Umayri
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### *Publications*

We continue to disseminate a wide range of research through our journals *Levant* and *Contemporary Levant* published online and in print in partnership with Taylor and Francis. *Levant* continues to be ranked in the top quartile of all archaeological and historical journals worldwide and *Contemporary Levant*, CBRL's newer journal, quickly establishing itself as a leading area studies journal for the Middle East. Dr Caroline Middleton serves as Editor-in-Chief of *Levant* and Dr Sarah Irving (Staffordshire University) Editor-in-Chief of *Contemporary Levant*, both supported by their respective editorial boards.

2022 marked the 54th year of the publication of *Levant*; with four printed issues (after publication online) produced (53.3 & 54.1-3), including the special issue (53.3), *Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa: Mapping, Heritage Management and Research*, edited by Letty ten Harkel, Pascal Flohr and Michael Fradley. In total, 28 research articles, 2 short reports, 4 obituaries, 4 book reviews, and one introductory piece to the special issue were published. In a new initiative, best article prizes were offered in summer 2022. The winners were:

Steve Mithen University of Reading	<i>Best Paper</i> : Shamanism at the transition from foraging to farming in SW Asia: Sacra, ritual, and performance at Neolithic WF16 (southern Jordan)
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Golan Shalvi University of Haifa	<i>Early Career Best Paper</i> : The long seventh-century BCE at Tel Shiqmona (Israel): a high-resolution chronological tool for the Levant and the Mediterranean
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2022 marked the 7th year of the publication of *Contemporary Levant*. The spring special issue (7.1) entitled *Syrian Literature: Continuities and Contiguities* was guest edited by Daniel Behar (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and Alexa Firat (Temple University, Philadelphia). In total for both issues, 11 articles, 8 book reviews, and two introductions (editors' notes) were published.

Caroline Middleton also serves as CBRL Monographs Editor. Existing open access published material was moved from the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) at York University to the JSTOR platform. In 2022-23, 18 monographs from the CBRL back catalogue were made available on the new platform as e-books. CBRL also has new monographs under production in 2022/23, or agreement to publish, as well as working to continue to publish its back catalogue, notably rare publications, open access on the JSTOR platform.

Reported publications in 2022/23 from CBRL-sponsored research (including former staff) include three monographs and seven research articles in peer-reviewed journals. The monographs are:

Proudfoot, Philip, 2022. *Rebel Populism: Revolution and Loss among Syrian Labourers in Beirut*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Alqaisiya, Walaa, 2023. *Decolonial Queering in Palestine*. Routledge.

Gatter, Melissa, 2023. *Time and Power in Azraq Refugee Camp: A Nine-To-Five Emergency*. Cairo: American University of Cairo Press.

Significant publications by staff include a chapter by Carol Palmer on the CBRL's history in Palestine and Jordan in a major publication edited by Hani Hayajneh, Alexander von Humboldt Fellow, resulting from a conference sponsored by the Humbolt Foundation held in 2019. Shatha Mubaideen and co-authors published a major paper in the *Levant* special issue with the Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA) team, on Amman Heritage Houses. Publications continue to be produced from the highly successful Mapping Digital Heritage in Jordan (MaDiH) project, 2019-2021. Carol Palmer was granted a period of research leave, starting in March, to a book on peasant agriculture in the hills around Jerusalem based on the 1940s observations of the Polish ethnographer, Lucjan Turkowski (1905-1976), to be published by the Palestine Exploration Fund (PEF).

### *Events and outreach*

We organised, collaborated on, participated in, and sponsored a very diverse series of online events in 2022/2023: 25 lectures/webinars, four conferences, six workshops, three training activities and three outreach events. Total online event reach was 8,834 in 2022/23, counting attendees plus views across all CBRL's social media. This is less than in 2021/22, reflecting a return to in-person events.

The in-person, online and hybrid lectures, panel discussions and seminars were:

*Palestinian Rituals of Identity: The Prophet Moses Festival in Jerusalem, 1850-1948*. Speaker: Awad Halabi (Wright State University, Ohio). 18 May 2022 (online).

*Using the Master's Tools to Dismantle the Master's House: International Law and Palestinian Liberation*. Speaker: Dr Ralph Wilde (University College London). 26 May 2022 (online).

*CBRL & Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa, University of Oxford (EAMENA) webinar: Digital mapping, heritage management and archaeological research in the Levant: synergism and future directions*. Speakers: Pascal Flohr, Michael Fradley, Letty ten Harkel (EAMENA), Shatha Mubaideen (CBRL), Mohammad Al-Jaradat (MoTA Palestine). 15 June 2022 (online).

Kenyon Institute Reopening and Launch of the Islamic Jerusalem Project: *Evaluating the Documentation & Preservation of Jerusalem's Islamic Architectural Heritage – A Personal Perspective*. Speaker: Yusuf Natsheh. 23 June 2022 (in person).

*Challenging the Kyl-Bingaman Amendment: Opening Access to Satellite Imagery over Israel and Palestine*. Joint event with the Palestine Exploration Fund (PEF). Speaker: Michael Fradley (EAMENA), in memory of Andrea Zerbini. Palestine Exploration Fund, Greenwich, London. 6 July 2022 (hybrid).

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*From Sheffield to Amman: Projects on Public Spaces and Refugees' Integration.* Speakers: Dr Clare Rishbeth (University of Sheffield), Dr Hala Ghanem (University Sheffield). Amman Institute. 11 September 2022 (hybrid).

*Jerusalem: Old City Perspectives from Without and Within.* Speakers: Matthew Teller (freelance journalist). Bisan Abu-Eisheh (CBRL). 13 September 2022 (online).

*Rebel Populism – Revolution and Loss Among Syrian Labourers in Beirut.* Speaker: Philip Proudfoot (Institute of Development Studies). Amman Institute. 26 September 2022 (hybrid).

British Mandate in Palestine Series #1: *The Victorians in Palestine: Laying Colonial Foundations.* Speaker: Gabriel Polley (University of Exeter). 12 October 2022 (online).

British Mandate in Palestine Series #2: *Thirsty Water Carriers: The Legacy of Colonialism in the Galilee.* Speaker: Dr Muna Dajani (LSE). 17 October 2022 (online).

*Knowing about Earthquakes in the Mandatory Levant.* Speaker: Sarah Irving (Staffordshire University and Editor-in-Chief of Contemporary Levant). Amman Institute. 18 October 2022 (hybrid).

British Mandate in Palestine Series #3: *Britain's Pacification of Palestine: The British Army, the Colonial State, and the Arab Revolt, 1936-39.* Speaker: Matthew Hughes (Brunel University). 19 October 2022 (online).

*Launch of Kashmir-Palestine Scholars Solidarity Network.* Speaker: Goldie Osuri (University of Warwick). 24 October 2022 (hybrid).

The Kashmir-Palestine Conversations Series #1: *"Bring Him Back" (Dir. Fahad Shah 2015) Film Screening and Discussion,* with Suhad Daher Nashef (Keele University) and Talat Bhat (Independent film-maker/activist). 25 October (hybrid).

*On the Centenary of the British Mandate Era in Palestine (1922-1948):* Dr Salman Abu Sitta's Address to Balfour. In partnership with the University of Edinburgh (RACE.ED) and in co-sponsorship with *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*, Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH), Center for Research Collection (CRC), History, Sociology, Politics and International Relations Middle East Research Group (PIR-MERG) and Islamic and Middle East Studies (IMES). 8 November 2022 (in person).

The Kashmir-Palestine Conversations Series #2: *Economic Dimensions.* Speakers: Dr Mehroosh Tak (Royal Veterinary College), Dr Sobhi Samour (Al-Quds University), Abdulla Moaswes (University of Exeter). 23 November 2022 (online).

British Mandate in Palestine Series #4: *Mapping the Future in British Mandate Palestine.* Speaker: Penny Sinanoglou (Wake Forest University). 29 November 2022 (online).

*Brokers and the Infrastructure of Syrian Displacement across the Mediterranean: A Work in Progress.* Speaker: Ann-Christin Zuntz (University of Edinburgh). Amman Institute. 4 December 2022 (in person).

*Women and the Media in Jordan: A Discussion and Book Launch.* Speaker: Ebtihal Mahadeen (University of Edinburgh). Amman Institute. 10 December 2023 (in person).

AGM Lecture 2022: *A Cognitive Arab Uprising? Paradigm Shifts in Arab Social Sciences.* Speaker: Sari Hanafi (American University of Beirut). 14 December 2023 (online).

Kashmir-Palestine Conversation Series #3: *Popular Resistance.* Speakers: Ala Al Azzeh (Rice University), Inshah Malik (Nehru University), Virinder Kalra (University of Warwick). 16 January 2023 (online).

*Kashmir-Palestine Conversation Series #4: Poetry and Literature.* Speakers: Dalia Taha (Palestinian poet and playwright), Ather Zia (University of Northern Colorado), Nadine El-Enany (Birkbeck School of Law). 18 January 2023 (online).

*How can Syrian agricultural expertise inform sustainable development policy? Insights from the FIELD SONGS project with Syrian farmers in Turkey.* In partnership with the University of Edinburgh, Dozan Art and Culture and Syrian Academic Expertise. 25 January 2023 (online).

*The Impact of the Amphetamine Captagon on Jordan: A Qualitative Perspective of Patients and Frontline Workers.* Speakers: Christina Steenkamp (Oxford Brookes University) and Maya Wazaify (University of Jordan). 1 February (online).



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*Kashmir Palestine Conversation Series: #5 Colonial Bureaucracies and Contemporary Citizenship.* Speaker: Yael Berda (Hebrew University). 14 February 2023 (online).

*Forced Migration in the Middle East; Past and Present: A Conversation with Laura Robson (Penn State University) and Ibrahim Awad (American University in Cairo).* Public event in partnership with GRAMNet (Glasgow Refugee, Asylum and Migration Network) held during the *Forced Migration in the Middle East* workshop. University of Glasgow. 23 March 2023 (hybrid).

*The Refugee System: A Sociological Approach: A Talk by Rawan Arar (University of Washington) on her new book (Polity Press 2023) with David FitzGerald.* 24 March 2023 (hybrid). Public event in partnership with GRAMNet held during the *Forced Migration in the Middle East* workshop. University of Glasgow. 24 March 2023 (hybrid).

### Conferences:

*15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Archaeology and History of Jordan (ICHAJ15).* Paper presentations and session moderation by the CBRL Amman team. Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan. 18–22 July 2022 (in person).

*Reassessing the British Mandate.* The Institute of Palestine Studies in partnership with Birzeit University, CBRL, New Directions in Palestinian Studies at Brown University, Center for Palestine Studies at Columbia University, Hearing Palestine, European Centre for Palestine Studies at Exeter University, and the Centre for Palestine Studies – SOAS. Birzeit University, Ramallah. 31 October–2 November 2022 (hybrid).

*Access Denied: Restrictions on International Presence in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt).* Newcastle University (lead organiser, Mark Griffiths), co-organised with the Kenyon Institute. East Jerusalem. 15 November 2022 (in person).

*6th Oxford Interdisciplinary Desert Conference.* Led by the University of Oxford (lead organiser: Ariell Ahearn). School of Geography and the Environment (SoGE), Oxford. 16–17 March 2023 (in person).

### Workshops:

*Heritage & Archaeology Diwan #6* at the German Jordanian University. Jointly organised with the Institut Français du Proche-Orient (Ifpo), CBRL, the American Center of Research (ACOR) and the German Protestant Institute of Archaeology (GPIA) GPIA, with the support of the Gerda Henkel Stiftung German. 5 June 2022 (in person).

*Dana+20*, workshop on 20 years after the Dana Declaration. Organised by the Refugee Studies Centre (RSC) and the School of Geography and the Environment (SoGE), University of Oxford, and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN). Supported by CBRL and a range of organisations. Wadi Dana, Jordan. 7 – 10 September 2022.

*Can you Hack it? Challenging the Colonial Epistemologies of the Archive.* In collaboration with Sussex Humanities Lab and the Middle East North Africa Centre Sussex (Menacs). Sussex University. 5 October 2022 (in person).

*Mobility, Development, and the Environment in the Levant*, follow-on event from the Dana +20 workshop, in partnership with the University of Oxford (Ariell Ahearn) and Newcastle University (Olivia Mason). Amman Institute. 16 – 17 March 2023 (in person).

*Colonial Architecture in Transjordan: the case of As-Safawi H5 station.* In partnership with the Hashemite University, Durham University and the University of Copenhagen. Amman Institute. 15 March 2023 (hybrid).

*Researching Forced Migration in the Middle East*, Emerging Scholars Workshop. University of Glasgow and CBRL. Organisers: Gerasimos Tsourapas (University of Glasgow), Rawan Arar (University of Washington), and Benjamin White-Thomas (University of Glasgow). University of Glasgow. 23 – 24 March 2023 (in person).

### Training:

Mentoring event in partnership with BRISMES (The British Society for Middle Eastern Studies): *Getting published in an academic journal*, Speakers: Marwa Elshakry (Columbia University), Soha Bayoumi (John Hopkins University's Krieger School of Arts and Sciences). 6 April 2022 (online).

*Publication Workshop* with Dr Sarah Irving, Editor-in-Chief of *Contemporary Levant*, for PhD and Early Career Researchers. Amman Institute. 26 October 2022 (in person).

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Mentoring event in partnership with BRISMES (The British Society for Middle Eastern Studies): *Conducting Field Research in the Middle East*. Speakers: Mayssoun Sukarieh (King's College London), Tim Jacoby (University of Manchester) and Julie Norman (University College of London), and Toufic Haddad (CBRL). 25 January 2023 (online).

### Outreach events:

*The Yalla Project, a bottom-up urban regeneration approach*. Joint event with the Jordan Engineers Association. Speakers: Abdalrahman Kittana (Yalla Project, Birzeit University), Alessandra Gola (Yalla Project, KU Leuven). 24 August 2022 (online).

Tour of the historic centre of As-Salt City (newly listed UNESCO World Heritage Site) in partnership with the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA). 27 August 2022 (in person).

Heritage Day: *The Rehabilitation and Development of Architectural Heritage in Palestinian Cities; an Experience to Share*, in partnership with the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA), with the support of Greater Amman Municipality, under the patronage of HE Eng. Ahmad Samara al Zoubi, JEA President, and in the presence of Eng. Nadia Habash, the Head of the Engineers Association in Jerusalem, with the Architects Association in Palestine, and Eng. Marah Khayyat, the Head of the Urban and Architectural Heritage Preservation Committee. King Hussein Cultural Center, Amman. 5 November 2022 (in person).

### CBRL offices/institutes, archives, and libraries

The Kenyon Institute reopened to hostel residents and saw full occupancy, with the library opening by private appointment. A multi-media studio was set up at the Kenyon, with podcast series under development. The Amman Institute library reopened to the public, with opening hours 9 am – 4 pm, Sunday to Thursday, and a diverse programme of in-person events. The London archives team travelled to both institutes, working concentratedly at the Kenyon Institute to support the mapping of the archive there and the set up of equipment to digitise the Kenyon Institute archives, with digitisation on the AlTajir Islamic Jerusalem project started. The London archives team completed the mapping and sorting of archives at the British Academy (relocated to off-site storage), a rare books project to map and digitise early publications of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem (BSAJ), and continue ongoing efforts to establish a digital repository. The release of contingency funds by the British Academy towards the end of the financial year supported the advancement of archival projects, a trustee away day, purchase of library journal subscriptions, and the purchase of library, digitisation and additional virtual meeting equipment in Amman.

### Facilitation and representation

One of CBRL's important roles is providing advice and facilitation, as well as representation of the organisation and the region. CBRL in Amman once again facilitated the permit for the Aerial Archaeology of Jordan Project with the Jordanian Royal Air Force, November 2022, and continued its close connection with the Department of Antiquities, facilitating permits for the study of artefacts. Throughout the year, directors continued to be actively in touch with its sponsored researchers.

### Staff

CBRL employs staff in three locations: in London, Amman and Jerusalem, in addition to the Directors based at CBRL's institutes in the Levant: Carol Palmer (CBRL Director and Amman Institute Director) and Toufic Haddad (CBRL Deputy Director and Kenyon Institute Director). Staff in the UK in 2022/2023 were: Claire Halliday, Executive Officer; Miranda Ludden, Financial Controller; Jessica Holland, Strategic Projects Director; Freja Howat, CBRL Project Archivist (June – March 2023); and Konstantina Georgiadou, as BIRI Project Archivist (September to March 2023). Silvia Ferreri continued in the role of part-time Outreach and Administrative Co-ordinator in the London office on secondment from the British Institute for Persian Studies (BIPS) until June 2022. Yasmeen Elkhoudary took up the role of CBRL Communications Officer in May 2022. Office staff at CBRL in Amman in 2022/2023 were: Firas Bqa'in, Operations Manager; Safa Al-Muhtaseb, Administrator/Accountant; Rudaina Al Momani, Librarian, Shatha Mubaideen, Senior Research Officer. Maida Smeir, Administrator at the Kenyon Institute in Jerusalem, left in February 2023, and her replacement, Carol Khoury, started in April 2023. Caretaking and housekeeping staff at the Institutes were: Sami Saleh (Kenyon), Osama Dasouqi (Amman), Sameera Jbour (Amman), and Mohammed Saleh (Kenyon).

### Future plans

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The Trustees and Directors of the Institutes continued consulting on CBRL's strategy and four-year business plan to 2025 designed to refresh and renew its mission of supporting and disseminating research on the Levant on a sustainable basis for the common good. The new strategy recognises the changing environment in terms of funding sources, researchers' needs and priorities, and the relevance of our activities to the countries of the Levant.

CBRL strategy to 2025 is structured around three core priorities:

- Protecting and enhancing research excellence
- Expanding reach and engagement
- Strengthening the organisation and its operating model

Our activities to support these objectives include:

- Reviewing and modernising our governance structure;
- Raising funds for new projects, fellowships, to offer opportunities to postgraduate students and to support our work in the UK and the region;
- Investing in our libraries and the accessibility of our archives and research resources, physical and digital;
- Formalising strategic partnerships with UK and regional HEIs and organisations sharing our mission and vision;
- Building on opportunities presented by the renovation of the Kenyon Institute premises and move of the Amman Institute to attract new and returnee users by provide excellent research and networking spaces;
- Building on enhanced opportunities for digital engagement and outreach, including improving measurements to evaluate impact;
- Continuing to upgrade HR structures and practices;
- Designing and developing a comprehensive fundraising strategy; and
- Increasing collaboration with fellow British International Research Institutes (BIRI)

CBRL will continue to foster research according to the themes:

- Heritage - 'Understanding the past ... and its present impacts'
- States, societies and cultures of the Levant
- Cities and urbanisation
- Refugees, migration, displacement, and diasporas
- Challenges of sustainability and resilience

Covid hastened the move to digital, not only for events, but also as a platform for regular staff and trustee meetings. However, in the immediate post-Covid-19 period 2022/23, there has been a return to in-person events, with people, where possible, preferring face-to-face meetings, especially for workshops, conferences and outreach events.

As of March 2023, the Kenyon Institute hostel is open and the Amman Institute library is open to the public 9 am – 4 pm, Sunday – Thursday, with regular in-person public events. One team-based project remains to be completed from before Covid, with projects from 2022/23 given an extension until December 2023 to complete and submit reports.

### **Grants Policy**

Grant opportunities are available for research project grants for early career and established researchers based in a UK HE institution to undertake pilot work to establish the feasibility of a larger project, or to bring an established project to completion (up to £8,000): residential fellowships are available for early career and established researchers, either based in a UK HE institution or within 10 years of obtaining a PhD at a UK university if based in one of the countries within CBRL's remit to undertake a period of research (normally three months) at the CBRL's institutes in Amman and/or Jerusalem; travel grants are available for doctoral students registered at a UK HEI or post-doctoral members of staff at a UK HEI to undertake travel in the Levant; and research support grants for researchers based in one of the countries within CBRL's remit for graduate students registered at a

# COUNCIL FOR BRITISH RESEARCH IN THE LEVANT

## ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

university in the Levant to undertake project research (up to £1,000). The travel grants available to PhD researchers and research support grants to researchers from the region are funded by members, donors and our reserves in 2021/2022, as the specific terms do not allow us to support PhD work from our BA grant. Network Partnership Awards are offered towards the establishment or development of research partnerships between the UK and Levant-based post-doctoral researchers.

Applications for funding of research projects in the Levant are sought through advertising in academic and research institutions and the Internet. Applicants are invited to submit their proposals in a specific format. The applications are reviewed on their academic merit through a stringent process of peer review by appropriate experts, including those who are not associated with CBRL. Final selection is made by the CBRL Research sub-committee. Ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, and personal financial circumstances are not taken into account. Projects are funded and monitored on an annual basis.

### **Fundraising policy**

We receive most of our funds in the form of restricted (project) or unrestricted (general) grant support from institutional funders, primarily a grant-in-aid from the British Academy, together with some charitable trusts and foundations, and grant income for academic projects. We use our membership fees and raise donations from our members to provide research opportunities, such as travel grants for UK postgraduates and for scholars from the Levant. We raise funds from institutional donors for major projects, fellowships and conference sponsorship.

CBRL does not employ third party fundraisers and does not raise funds from the general public. All our staff follow the Code of Fundraising Practice as outlined by the UK's Fundraising Regulator. During the year there were no complaints about fundraising.

### **Financial Review**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the financial statements and comply with the governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (the 'Charities SORP').

The British Academy grant covered the year to 31 March 2023. The BA grant is divided between a core, or main, grant and the Business Development Fund (BDF) which is intended to develop CBRL's long-term financial sustainability and is subject to separate annual bids to the British Academy. In addition, contingency funds are offered, which are also subject to a bidding process. The BA grant for 2022/2023 was the third year of a 4 year agreement ending in 2024/25 with the award letter issued at the end of March 2023. CBRL continues to develop initiatives to raise an increasing proportion of its funds from non-BEIS sources and to seek to raise its free reserves to make it both less dependent on a single funding source and more resilient to swings in forward planning. This has led to restructuring and a cautious approach to expenditure and given the ongoing climate of uncertainty this approach will continue.

The overall result for the year is a deficit on the general fund of £12,352 leaving unrestricted reserves of £310,609. Restricted reserves had a net movement of £99,418 (deficit) leaving restricted reserves of £107,478.

Our ongoing financial planning strategy is to minimise risk through matching our permanent cost base to the core grant, while growing our activities on the basis of income generation from other sources including involvement as principal or partner in other grant-funded initiatives and fundraising for specific purposes such as major projects, fellowships and conference sponsorship.

### *Reserves Policy*

Charity Commission guidance defines free reserves as 'income which becomes available to the charity and is to be expended at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of any of the charity's objects, but is not yet spent, committed or designated'.

# COUNCIL FOR BRITISH RESEARCH IN THE LEVANT

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The trustees have examined the needs and challenges faced by the Charity in both the short and medium term, along with relevant financial forecasts, and have formulated a policy to meet those needs.

The existing free reserve policy set by the trustees is a level where at least the equivalent of four months of normal expenditure is maintained, recognising that some of the potential risks to our operation may cause a significant loss of local income streams. On the basis of expenditure that is planned for 2023/2024, this policy would require free reserves in the order of £200,000. CBRL has current free reserves of £293,009

At the balance sheet date, free reserves comprised the following:

	<b>2023</b>
	£
Total funds per Balance Sheet	418,087
Deduct:	
Restricted Funds (Note 9)	107,478
Fixed Assets held for charity use (Note 5)	17,600
Free Reserves at 31 March 2023	293,009

The trustees will assess this policy on an ongoing basis.

## Governance and Management

### *Constitution*

The Council for British Research in the Levant ("CBRL") is a charity registered in England and Wales (Number 1073015). It is also a company registered under the Companies Act 2006 (Number 3566646). The CBRL is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association supplemented by Byelaws.

### *Corporate Governance*

Management of the CBRL is vested in a Committee of Management, which consists of not fewer than five members elected by the CBRL membership in addition to those serving by virtue of their office. Honorary Officers elected at the AGM in 2022/2023 are the Chair, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Research Chair, and Honorary Publications Chair. Editors of CBRL's journals and monographs are no longer required to be trustees. All members of the Committee must be CBRL members. The Committee of Management is the CBRL's Board of Trustees, and its members (other than the President) are the trustees of the CBRL. Ordinary trustees serve for a maximum period of four consecutive years.

On election, trustees are given a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, a copy of the Byelaws and CBRL procedural documentation. They are offered guidance on the role and responsibilities of trustees of registered charities. Trustees oversee management through quarterly meetings of the Board, scheduled meetings of the sub-committees, and where necessary, on an ad hoc basis via email, telephone or internal secure messaging, as appropriate. The AGM was held in December 2022.

The Committee of Management is supported by specialist sub-committees whose membership is supplemented by staff members and, where required, by additional external guest members.

- Finance and Governance: J Shakeshaft (Chair), Dr R Bewley, T Thomson, Sean Hird, and A MacLeod.
- Research: Prof G Barker (Chair), Dr K Badreshany, Dr N Naser-Najjab, Dr R Sparks and external guest member and advisor Prof A Arsan.

# COUNCIL FOR BRITISH RESEARCH IN THE LEVANT

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- Publications: Prof G Barker (Chair), Dr S Irving (Contemporary Levant Editor-in-Chief, ex-officio), Dr C Middleton (Levant Editor-in-Chief from January 2021, ex-officio), and external guest member and advisor Dr Jennie Bradbury (from September 2022).
- Human Resources: Dr E Weizman (Chair to December 2022), T Thomson (Chair from December 2022), S Ewans, D Longe, K Owen.
- Development: Dr N Phoca-Cosmetatou (Chair), Dr R Bewley and J Shakeshaft.

Each sub-committee has its own terms of reference, and their reports are standing agenda items for the Committee of Management. Owing to the increasing professionalisation of CBRL's operations, a review of CBRL's constitution, committee structures, honorary officers, trustee roles, and membership structure is ongoing. Ad-hoc appointments panels continued to be set up to appoint new members of staff as well as ad-hoc working groups for time-limited issues of strategic importance. In recent years these have been fundraising (now the development sub-committee) and library working groups.

The Committee of Management is responsible for considering and approving all the recommendations of its sub-committees, working with the CBRL directors, developing the overall strategy and direction of the CBRL. CBRL continues to review and monitor its statement of principles, policies (codes of conduct and gift acceptance), and grant management.

Day-to-day management of the CBRL is delegated to the directors who act both as institute directors and ex-officio members of committees. Dr Carol Palmer, the CBRL Director and CBRL Amman Institute Director, directs operations at all locations. Dr Toufic Haddad, the Kenyon Institute Director is responsible for staff and operations in Jerusalem, also acting as CBRL Deputy Director. Both institute directors are active researchers in addition to their administrative and operational responsibilities.

### *Remuneration policy*

The governing principles of the Charity's draft remuneration policy are as follows:

- To ensure delivery of the Charity's objectives
- To attract and retain a motivated workforce with the skills and expertise necessary for organisational effectiveness
- That remuneration should be equitable and coherent across the organisation while recognising the particular complexities of employing staff in several countries
- To take account of the purposes, aims and values of the Charity
- To ensure that pay levels and pay increases are appropriate in the context of the interests of our beneficiaries.

### *Senior Executive Remuneration*

CBRL takes into account the following principles in terms of the remuneration of its senior executives:

- To ensure that the Charity can access the types of skills, experiences and competencies that it needs in its senior staff, the specific scope of these roles in the Charity and the link to pay.
- The nature of the wider employment offer made to senior employees, where pay is one part of a package that includes personal and career development, personal fulfilment and association with the public benefit delivered. The Charity recognises that it is, on occasion, possible to attract senior executives at a discount to public sector or private sector market rates.

In line with the recommendations of the NCVO Inquiry into Executive Remuneration published in April 2014, the Charity has decided to disclose the remuneration of the Executive Team, which for 2022/2023 comprised the directors of the overseas institutes.

Remuneration for the year ended 31 March 2023 comprised salary and pension contributions. There are no other pecuniary benefits for senior or other staff at the Charity.

### **Risks**

The Board has accepted the wider responsibilities in the revised 'Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the Charity Commission in October 2000 as updated by SORP 2015. The Finance and Governance sub-committee reviews management and financial procedures to ensure the identification of major risks to which the CBRL may be exposed and to ensure

# COUNCIL FOR BRITISH RESEARCH IN THE LEVANT

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appropriate systems are in place to mitigate them. Responsibility for reviewing and updating the CBRL risk register is currently held by the trustee with responsibility for risk governance, incorporating the role of Data Protection Officer, who is a member of the Committee of Management, Finance and Governance and HR sub-committees.

Risks to our activities arise from regional instability and the potential impact on the security of our Institutes, staff, and visiting researchers. CBRL cannot replace the risk assessments undertaken within UK HEIs (Higher Education Institutions) nor accept responsibility for visiting researchers and students, but CBRL works to minimise risks to staff and visitors. Procedures have been updated to ensure that researchers visiting our two overseas Institutes have undertaken their own risk assessments.

The operation of our Institutes is reliant on relevant permissions from authorities in the territories in which they are situated, where CBRL maintains two institutes one each in Jerusalem and Amman. Foreign NGOs and learned societies are increasingly subject to enhanced scrutiny throughout the Middle East which causes frustration of the fulfilment of our educational purposes. CBRL mitigates these risks by demonstrating benefit to the local community and researchers (e.g. the institute libraries and through partnerships on research projects) and building strong relationships with all relevant local and international stakeholders.

The other material risk faced by CBRL is in respect to its core British Academy funding. British Academy core funding levels in 2022/2023 remained the same as in 2021/2022 except that the contingency fund for all BIRI's has now been incorporated into the main grant. CBRL is continuing its efforts to raise funds through a wide variety of means, to reduce dependence on the Academy grant.

### **Trustee Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements**

The trustees (who are also directors of the Council for British Research in the Levant for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.)

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, including FRS 102, have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- state whether a Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applies and has been followed, subject to any material departures which are explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

None of the trustees had any beneficial interest in any contract to which the company was party during the year.

Each of the trustees has confirmed that so far as he/she is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware, and that he/she has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

# COUNCIL FOR BRITISH RESEARCH IN THE LEVANT

## ANNUAL REPORT


YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

This report also represents the directors' report as required by company law.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Signed on behalf of the Council by:

  
John Shakeshaft (Sep 29, 2023 19:06 GMT+1)

  
Robert Bewley (Sep 29, 2023 23:18 GMT+1)

Trustee: John Shakeshaft (Honorary Treasurer)

Trustee: Robert Bewley (Chair)

Date: ~~29/09/2023~~  
Sep 29, 2023

Date: Sep 29, 2023



# COUNCIL FOR BRITISH RESEARCH IN THE LEVANT

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR BRITISH RESEARCH IN THE LEVANT

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Council for British Research in the Levant (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

# COUNCIL FOR BRITISH RESEARCH IN THE LEVANT

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for company law purposes, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees' were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

### Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Discussions with and enquiries of management and those charged with governance were held with a view to identifying those laws and regulations that could be expected to have a material impact on the financial statements. During the engagement team briefing, the outcomes of these discussions and enquiries were shared with the team, as well as consideration as to where and how fraud may occur in the entity.

# COUNCIL FOR BRITISH RESEARCH IN THE LEVANT

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The following laws and regulations were identified as being of significance to the entity:

- Those laws and regulations considered to have a direct effect on the financial statements include UK financial reporting standards, Company Law, and Charity Law.
- Those laws and regulations for which non-compliance may be fundamental to the operating aspects of the charity and therefore may have a material effect on the financial statements include compliance with the charitable objectives, public benefit regulations, regional law, employment law and health and safety legislation.

Audit procedures undertaken in response to the potential risks relating to irregularities (which include fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations) comprised of: inquiries of management and the Trustees as to whether the entity complies with such laws and regulations; enquiries with the same concerning any actual or potential litigation or claims; inspection of relevant legal correspondence; review of Trustee meeting minutes; testing the appropriateness of journal entries; and the performance of analytical review to identify unexpected movements in account balances which may be indicative of fraud.

No instances of material non-compliance were identified. However, the likelihood of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is limited by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the entity's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed. Irregularities that result from fraud might be inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error. As explained above, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit has been planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK).

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

# COUNCIL FOR BRITISH RESEARCH IN THE LEVANT

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### **Opinion on other matter as required by British Academy grant letter**

In our opinion, in all material aspects, the grant payments from the British Academy have been applied in accordance with, and for the purposes set out in, the Agreement.

### **Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

  
WMT (Oct 4, 2023 10:47 GMT+1)

**Elizabeth Wicks**  
**Senior Statutory Auditor**

**For and on behalf of WMT**  
**Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors**  
4 Beaconsfield Road  
St Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL1 3RD

Date: Oct 4, 2023

# Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating income and Expenditure Account)

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Council for British Research in the Levant

	Notes	Unrestricted 31 Mar 2023 £	Restricted 31 Mar 2023 £	Total 31 Mar 2023 £	Unrestricted 31 Mar 2022 £	Restricted 31 Mar 2022 £	Total 31 Mar 2022 £
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>							
Donations and Legacies	2	5,260	724,037	729,297	7,304	768,749	776,053
Charitable Activities	2	73,294	44,944	118,238	56,237	4,497	60,734
Investments	2	2,271	-	2,271	63	-	63
<b>Total</b>		<b>80,825</b>	<b>768,981</b>	<b>849,806</b>	<b>63,604</b>	<b>773,246</b>	<b>836,850</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising Funds	3	-	62,106	62,106	14,933	175,983	190,916
Charitable Activities	3	47,159	852,311	899,470	40,895	679,590	720,485
<b>Total</b>		<b>47,159</b>	<b>914,417</b>	<b>961,576</b>	<b>55,828</b>	<b>855,573</b>	<b>911,401</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>33,666</b>	<b>(145,436)</b>	<b>(111,770)</b>	<b>7,776</b>	<b>(82,327)</b>	<b>(74,551)</b>
Transfers between funds		(46,018)	46,018	-	(22,954)	22,954	-
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>(12,352)</b>	<b>(99,418)</b>	<b>(111,770)</b>	<b>(15,178)</b>	<b>(59,373)</b>	<b>(74,551)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds</b>							
Funds brought forward		322,961	206,896	529,857	338,139	266,269	604,408
Funds carried forward		310,609	107,478	418,087	322,961	206,896	529,857

# Balance Sheet

## For the year ended 31 March 2023

### Council for British Research in the Levant

	Notes	Unrestricted 31 Mar 2023	Restricted 31 Mar 2023	Total 31 Mar 2023	Total 31 Mar 2022
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>					
Tangible assets	5	17,600	-	17,600	18,820
<b>Total Fixed Assets:</b>		<b>17,600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,600</b>	<b>18,820</b>
<b>Current assets:</b>					
Debtors	6	8,219	29,180	37,399	22,609
Cash at bank and in hand		294,800	251,319	546,119	744,388
<b>Total Current assets:</b>		<b>303,019</b>	<b>280,499</b>	<b>583,518</b>	<b>766,997</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	7	10,010	67,410	77,420	131,317
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>293,009</b>	<b>213,089</b>	<b>506,098</b>	<b>635,680</b>
Provisions		-	105,611	105,611	124,643
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>310,609</b>	<b>107,478</b>	<b>418,087</b>	<b>529,857</b>
<b>Total funds of the charity</b>					
Restricted funds	8,9	-	107,478	107,478	206,896
Unrestricted funds	8,9	310,609	-	310,609	322,961
<b>Total Funds of the Charity</b>		<b>310,609</b>	<b>107,478</b>	<b>418,087</b>	<b>529,857</b>

Registered Charity Number : 1164694, registered Company Number : 09388752

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Under Companies Act 2006, Section 454, on a voluntary basis, the trustees can amend these financial statements if they subsequently prove to be defective. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Board of directors on Sep 29, 2023, and signed on its behalf

Name: John Shakeshaft Signature: 

John Shakeshaft (Sep 29, 2023 19:06 GMT+1)

Name: Robert Bewley Signature: 

Robert Bewley (Sep 29, 2023 22:18 GMT+1)

# Statement of Cash Flows

## For the year ended 31 March 2023

### Council for British Research in the Levant

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Net cash flow provided by (used in) operating activities (Note A)		(194,460)	(21,910)
<b>Cash flow from investing activities:</b>			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	5	(3,809)	(3,762)
<b>Net cash flow from investing activities</b>		<b>(198,269)</b>	<b>(25,672)</b>

#### Note A

##### Reconciliation of Net Income to Net Cash

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income	(111,770)	(74,551)
Depreciation charges	5,029	4,369
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(14,790)	36,903
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	(53,897)	(28,185)
Increase/(Decrease) in provisions	(19,032)	39,554
	<b>(194,460)</b>	<b>(21,910)</b>

#### Note B

##### Reconciliation of Cash Flows to Movements in Net Cash

	2023 £	2022 £
Change in cash and cash equivalents	<b>(198,269)</b>	<b>(25,672)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	744,388	770,060
<b>Cash and cash equivalents carried forward</b>	<b>546,119</b>	<b>744,388</b>

#### Note C

##### Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 Apr 2022	Cash flows	At 31 Mar 2023
Cash and cash equivalents	744,388	(198,269)	546,119

# Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

## Council for British Research in the Levant

### 1 Accounting policies

#### (a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements consolidate the accounts of the London and overseas branches of the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005), 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice', the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (2nd Edition, effective January 2019).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The Charitable Company is a public benefit company for the purposes of FRS 102 and therefore the Charity also prepared its financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (The FRS 102 Charities SORP Second Edition), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. The functional currency of the charity is Sterling.

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

#### (b) Incoming resources

Grant and publications income are recognised within the SOFA where the organisation is entitled to the income, it is certain that the resource will be received, and the resource can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Where entitlement to grant income requires a specific performance to be achieved (i.e. performance related grant) then incoming resources are recognised only to the extent that the performance has taken place. Where monies are received in advance of entitlement they are deferred and only recognised when the activity providing an entitlement to this income has taken place.

Hostel and other services income is recognised in the period in which the services have been provided.

#### (c) Members subscriptions and events and conferences

Subscriptions and events are accounted for in the year to which they apply. Subscription income that relates to a subsequent financial accounting period is carried forward as deferred income.

#### (d) Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Grants payable are charged in the year to which the offer relates except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure. Grants returned are recognised in the year that they are received.

Research costs include grants, staff research time as well as research facilities and other services.

Support costs are allocated on the basis of staff time. Allocation of other costs includes an element of judgement and the charity has had to consider the cost benefit of detailed calculations and record keeping. Therefore the support costs shown are a best estimate of the costs that have been so allocated. Support costs include the expenses associated with Committee of Management meetings, Committee elections, external audit, strategic review, and compliance with other constitutional and statutory requirements.



Notes to the Financial Statements continued

(e) Fixed assets

All assets with a cost in excess of £1,000 are capitalised as fixed assets except for laptops which are capitalised if the cost exceeds £500.

Depreciation is charged at the following rates:

Motor vehicles	20% p.a. straight line basis
Computer and other equipment	20% p.a. straight line basis
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	10% p.a. straight line basis

(f) Publications

Publication costs are carried forward and charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of publication.

(g) Stocks

Stocks of publications are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(h) Foreign currencies

The accounts of overseas branches have been translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the year end.

(i) Taxation

The company is a charity within the meaning of Para 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income within categories covered by Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010, to the extent that such income is applied exclusively for charitable purposes. No tax charge arose in the period.

(j) Operating leases

Rental costs under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities, as the charges are incurred over the lease period.

(k) Fund accounting

Restricted funds comprise unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust to be applied for specific purposes.

General funds comprise the accumulated unrestricted funds which have not been designated for any specific purpose. They are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

(l) Pensions

The institution participates in Universities Superannuation Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The institution is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. As required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", the institution therefore accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the profit and loss account represents the contributions payable to the scheme. Since the institution has entered into an agreement (the Recovery Plan) that determines how each employer within the scheme will fund the overall deficit, the institution recognises a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) with related expenses being recognised through the profit and loss account.

Foreign pensions: Local employees of the overseas institutes are members of relevant state pension schemes where required by local law. CBRL pays employer contributions as required by those schemes. Additional provision is made for unfunded pension and termination obligations in respect of those employees not covered by relevant state pension schemes, where required by local law.

(m) Heritage Assets

The CBRL library is of historical and scientific importance to the objectives of the charity and is a key resource for its contribution to knowledge and culture.

Both branches of the library in Amman and Jerusalem are open to the public and local students. The historic role of the CBRL library in Jerusalem, predating modern political boundaries, allows it to serve as one of the few neutral meeting places in an otherwise divided city. The library has its roots in the early twentieth century and is made up of gifts, exchanges and acquisitions. Following the establishment of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem in 1919, the library was established to hold the Palestine Exploration Fund's Jerusalem library and was enhanced by the gift of Phythian-Adams' (the first Assistant Director) book collection. A large part of the library holdings could not be replaced, and no accurate value can be established by any means short of offering it for sale.

Part-time librarians, supported by other CBRL staff, curate both branches of the library. The library catalogue is held in a professional library software system publicly available online through the CBRL website. The current number of entries in the joint catalogue is 17,144 books and booklets, 408 journal and online journal series titles, 1,148 off-prints and 593 rare books. The increasing availability of digital resources, means that the virtual library that can be accessed through CBRL is now a major resource. There is a large map collection (nearly 2,000 sheet maps), including a collection of historic maps. The library budget includes funds for such items as binding or covering books to preserve them. New paper and softback books are placed in plastic covers. Library collection policy is regularly reviewed and updated. Additions to the library are acquired through purchase, exchanges with CBRL publications, and donations.

2022/23	:	£343 for acquisitions, £992 on equipment and maintenance: £1888 insurance
2021/22	:	£459 acquisitions; £2,226 on equipment and maintenance: £730 insurance
2020/21	:	£2,312 acquisitions; £690 on equipment and maintenance: £1,111 insurance
2019/20	:	£3,268 acquisitions; £4,268 on equipment and maintenance; £1,221 insurance
2018/19	:	£4,106 acquisitions; £813 on equipment and maintenance; £1,237 insurance
2017/18	:	£8,308 acquisitions; £518 on equipment and maintenance; £666 insurance
2016/17	:	£12,208 acquisitions; £1,079 net refund on equipment and maintenance; £1,934
2015/16	:	£15,033 acquisitions; £3,426 equipment and maintenance; £1,722 insurance

These figures are included in the statement of financial activities. These figures do not include donations, as the value of donations cannot easily be reliably established. Most are donated by authors, and include works, such as theses, that cannot be valued. No books purchased are over £1,000 in value.

The library has not been capitalised in past accounting periods. It is difficult and costly to attribute a cost, especially with regard to the map collection, the continuous runs of journals, and the rare books. In addition, many of the books are PhD and Master's dissertations, donated by their authors. These works have no commercial value. Conventional valuation approaches would not reflect the value of the asset to the charity which lies in the nature and location of the total collection and not the sum of its individual parts. In addition, significant costs would be incurred in attempting to value the asset which would be excessively onerous compared with the additional benefit to be derived by users of these accounts in assessing the trustees' stewardship of the assets.

(n) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

In the view of the trustees in applying the accounting policies adopted, no judgements were required that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements nor do any estimates or assumptions made carry a significant risk of material adjustment in the next financial year except for the provision relating to UK and overseas pension liabilities.

FRS 102 makes the distinction between a group plan and a multi-employer scheme. A group plan consists of a collection of entities under common control typically with a sponsoring employer. A multi-employer scheme is a scheme for entities not under common control and represents (typically) an industry wide scheme such as Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS). The accounting for a multi-employer scheme where the employer has entered into an agreement with the scheme that determines how the employer will fund a deficit results in the recognition of a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to a deficit) with the resulting expense charged through the profit and loss account in accordance with section 28 of FRS 102. The trustees are satisfied that USS meets the definition of a multi-employer scheme and has therefore recognised the discounted fair value of the contractual contributions under the recovery plan existing at the date of approving these financial statements.

(o) Other financial instruments

**i. Cash and equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash at banks and in hand and short term deposits with a maturity date of three months or less

**ii. Debtors and creditors**

Debtors and creditors receivable or payable within one year of the reporting date are carried at their transaction price. Debtors and creditors that are receivable or payable in more than one year and not subject to a market rate of interest are measured at the present value of the expected future receipts or payment discounted at a market rate of interest.

**2. Income**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net income is stated after charging:		
Payments under leases overseas	35,393	151,750
Depreciation	5,029	4,369
Auditor's remuneration		
- current year	11,400	9,260
- prior year	528	-
- in respect of non audit services	-	4,635
Foreign exchange differences	2,812	2,830

**(a) Income from Donations and Legacies**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>31 Mar 2023</b>	<b>31 Mar 2023</b>	<b>31 Mar 2023</b>	<b>31 Mar 2022</b>	<b>31 Mar 2022</b>	<b>31 Mar 2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Grant-in-Aid (British Academy)	-	724,037	724,037	-	768,749	768,749
Membership subscriptions	5,260	-	5,260	7,145	-	7,145
Donations	-	-	-	159	-	159
<b>Total Income from Donations and Legacies</b>	<b>5,260</b>	<b>724,037</b>	<b>729,297</b>	<b>7,304</b>	<b>768,749</b>	<b>776,053</b>

**(b) Income from Charitable Activities**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total 2020</b>
	<b>31 Mar 2023</b>	<b>31 Mar 2023</b>	<b>31 Mar 2023</b>	<b>31 Mar 2022</b>	<b>31 Mar 2022</b>	<b>31 Mar 2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Research facilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants for specific purposes	-	44,944	44,944	5,196	4,497	9,693
Levant income	27,178	-	27,178	25,728	-	25,728
Sale of publications	545	-	545	1,407	-	1,407
Events income	1,393	-	1,393	3,241	-	3,241
Facilities hire	41,403	-	41,403	20,665	-	20,665
Sale of fixed assets	2,775	-	2,775	-	-	-
<b>Total Income from Charitable Activities</b>	<b>73,294</b>	<b>44,944</b>	<b>118,238</b>	<b>56,237</b>	<b>4,497</b>	<b>60,734</b>

**(c) Income from investments**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total 2020</b>
	<b>31 Mar 2023</b>	<b>31 Mar 2023</b>	<b>31 Mar 2023</b>	<b>31 Mar 2022</b>	<b>31 Mar 2022</b>	<b>31 Mar 2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank interest	2,271	-	2,271	63	-	63
<b>Total Income from investments</b>	<b>2,271</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,271</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>80,825</b>	<b>768,981</b>	<b>849,806</b>	<b>63,604</b>	<b>773,246</b>	<b>836,850</b>

## 3. Expenditure

## a) Analysis of total expenditure 2023

	Activities undertaken directly	(Note 3 (c)) Grant funding of activities	(Note 3(b)) Support costs	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Expenditure on raising funds</b>				
Grant-in-aid and fundraising	62,106	-	12,888	74,994
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Research	267,294	-	248,238	515,532
Publications	27,828	-	10,355	38,183
Library	160,002	-	56,556	216,558
Events and conferences	104,798	-	11,511	116,309
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>622,028</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>339,548</b>	<b>961,576</b>

## b) Analysis of support costs 2023

	Research	Publications	Library	Events and conferences	Raising Funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Management and finance	125,543	8,968	26,902	8,968	8,968	179,349
Communications and IT	2,065	229	459	229	1,606	4,588
Premises	99,404	-	28,037	-	-	127,441
Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	5,029	-	-	-	-	5,029
Governance	16,197	1,158	1,158	2,314	2,314	23,141
<b>Total Support costs</b>	<b>248,238</b>	<b>10,355</b>	<b>56,556</b>	<b>11,511</b>	<b>12,888</b>	<b>339,548</b>

## c) Analysis of grant funding of activities 2023

During the year 15 (2022: 15) individuals received grants and bursaries to a total value of £43,304 (2022: £60,044).

	Amount received	
	£	
<b>Network Partnership Awards</b>		
Dr Jacob Norris, University of Sussex	Digitising Treasures: From St Nicholas to Open Access	2,492
Dr Lindsey Moore, Lancaster University	Storying Nablus: Literary/Digital Maps	2,492
<b>Project Grants</b>		
Prof Bahar Basar, Durham University	Diasporic Memory and Heritage: Intergenerational Narratives of Kurdistan Jews in Israel	8,000
Dr Chris Sandal-Wilson, University of Exeter	Internationalising Palestinian mental health 1948-1967	1,800
Professor Andrew Peterson, University of Wales	Mudawwara: Excavation and Survey of an Ottoman Fort:	8,000
<b>Research Support Grants</b>		
Gwendoline Maurer, University College London	Investigating changing socio-economic landscapes from the Early Bronze I-II in the Levant through Zooarchaeology and stable isotope analysis.	1,266
<b>Residential Fellowships</b>		
Professor Rachel Mairs, University of Reading	Dragomans Archaeology and Tourism in Late Ottoman and Mandate Palestine	4,933
Dr Louise Martin, University College London	People & Animals in the Jordanian Badiapast and present	4,911
Dr Haneen Naamneh, London School of Economics and Political Science	Urban Development of Arab Jerusalem in the aftermath of the Nakba - Documenting the Revival of Local Administration and	4,410
<b>Travel Grants</b>		
Kirsty Bennett	The Sonic Circulation of Fairouz and the Rahbani Brothers between Beirut Moscow and East Germany	1,000
Gal Kramarki	Between Normalisation and Normal lives: Israeli Development Interventions in Occupied East Jerusalem	1,000
Eibhlin Priestley	The Syrian diaspora in Egypt and Sudan 1899-1956: urban life empire and mobility.	1,000
Mayumi Sato	Centering Anti-Racism during a Climate Crisis: The Pursuit of Environmental Justice in Palestine	1,000
Ana Silkatcheva	Geometric patterns on floor mosaics of the Byzantine and Islamic periods in the Levant	1,000
Hassam Hussein	Returned of grant issued in 2022	(84)

43,220

Notes to the Financial Statements continued

d) Analysis of total expenditure 2022	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Expenditure on raising funds</b>				
Grant-in-aid and fundraising	175,983	-	14,933	190,916
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Research	222,548	60,044	298,626	581,218
Publications	3,478	-	10,229	13,707
Library	19,076	-	70,785	89,861
Events and conferences	24,810	-	10,890	35,700
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>445,895</b>	<b>60,044</b>	<b>405,463</b>	<b>911,402</b>

e) Analysis of support costs 2022

	Research	Publications	Library	Events and conferences	Raising Funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Management and finance	124,497	8,893	26,678	8,893	8,893	177,854
Communications and IT	6,065	674	1,348	674	4,717	13,478
Premises	149,252	-	42,097	-	-	191,349
Equipment	5,179	-	-	-	-	5,179
Depreciation	4,370	-	-	-	-	4,370
Governance	9,263	662	662	1,323	1,323	13,233
<b>Total Support costs</b>	<b>298,626</b>	<b>10,229</b>	<b>70,785</b>	<b>10,890</b>	<b>14,933</b>	<b>405,463</b>

4. Trustee and Employee information

No remuneration was paid to the trustees and no donations received for the year ended 31 March 2023 (2022: £Nil). Expenses of £6,924 for travel and subsistence were paid to 4 trustees for the year ended 31 March 2023 (2022: £Nil).

	Total	Total
	31 Mar 2023	31 Mar 2022
	£	£
Salaries	449,209	243,811
Social security	30,145	11,317
Overseas Employment tax	9,728	19,552
Pension, including movement in provision	27,763	86,827
<b>Total Employment Costs</b>	<b>516,845</b>	<b>361,507</b>

Employment Information

	31 Mar 2023	31 Mar 2022
Key management personnel compensation	£127,107	£122,150
Average number of employees during the period:	18	13

In 2023, no employee received remuneration over £60,000. In 2022, no employee received remuneration over £60,000. This is restated from one employee receiving remuneration between £60,000-£70,000.

The trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the overseas Institute Directors as comprising the key management personnel of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running the Charity on a day to day basis. All trustees give their time freely and no trustee remuneration was paid in the year. Details of trustee expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 4 (a) and note 12 to the accounts.

## 5. Fixed assets

	Computer, office and other equipment	Motor vehicles	Furniture, fixtures and fitting	UK Office equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>					
Opening balance	19,553	27,154	21,718	3,458	71,883
Additions	1,692	-	1,258	859	3,809
Disposals	-	-	(10,097)	-	(10,097)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>21,245</b>	<b>27,154</b>	<b>12,879</b>	<b>4,317</b>	<b>65,595</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
Opening balance	11,391	18,530	21,718	1,424	53,063
Depreciation charge for the year	2,087	2,250	-	692	5,029
Depreciation eliminated on disposal	-	-	(10,097)	-	(10,097)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>13,478</b>	<b>20,780</b>	<b>11,621</b>	<b>2,116</b>	<b>47,995</b>
<b>Net book value 31 March 2023</b>	<b>7,767</b>	<b>6,374</b>	<b>1,258</b>	<b>2,201</b>	<b>17,600</b>
<b>Net book value 31 March 2022</b>	<b>8,162</b>	<b>8,624</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,034</b>	<b>18,820</b>

All fixed assets belong to unrestricted funds.

## 6. Debtors

	Total 31 Mar 2023	Total 31 Mar 2022
	£	£
Other debtors and accrued income	14,466	268
Prepayments	22,933	22,341
<b>Total Debtors</b>	<b>37,399</b>	<b>22,609</b>

## 7. Creditors

	Total 31 Mar 2023	Total 31 Mar 2022
	£	£
Other creditors	39,135	61,160
Accruals for trade creditors	24,848	59,990
Accruals for grants payable	7,902	6,090
Deferred income	5,535	4,077
<b>Total Creditors</b>	<b>77,420</b>	<b>131,317</b>

## Deferred income analysis

	2023	2023
	£	£
<b>Deferred income b/f</b>	4,077	6,329
Membership income released	(2,277)	(4,529)
Membership income deferred	3,735	2,277
<b>Deferred income balance 31 Mar 2023</b>	<b>5,535</b>	<b>4,077</b>

## 8. Provisions

	2023	2023
	£	£
USS pension scheme deficit provision	64,024	94,550
Overseas pension provisions	41,587	30,093
	<b>105,611</b>	<b>124,643</b>



## 9. Reconciliation of Funds

	Balance 31 March 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfer of funds	Balance 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
British Academy BIRI Grant	53,281	601,464	700,721	45,976	-
BIRI Collective grant	-	32,414	32,414	-	-
British Academy Business Development Fund	37,176	122,573	159,768	19	-
Jerusalem Excavation Publications	11,888	-	-	-	11,888
Ancient Jerusalem Project	38,952	-	-	-	38,952
British Academy Incentivisation Grant	3,678	-	3,376	-	302
British Academy Advanced Language Training	54,978	-	1,077	-	53,901
British Academy Strategic Development Fund	692	-	-	-	692
Travel grant fund	5,020	-	5,000	-	20
Kenyon Institute Library Fund	384	100	-	-	484
Al Tajir Trust	-	10,000	10,023	23	-
Tall Dhiban	847	-	-	-	847
Aerial Archaeology in Jordan	-	2,430	2,038	-	392
		-	-	-	-
	<b>206,896</b>	<b>768,981</b>	<b>914,417</b>	<b>46,018</b>	<b>107,478</b>
<b>General funds</b>	322,961	80,825	47,159	(46,018)	310,609
	<b>529,857</b>	<b>849,806</b>	<b>961,576</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>418,087</b>

A contribution of £45,976 was made from general reserves to support the activities funded by the BIRI Grant.

## 2021/22 for comparison

	Balance 31 March 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfer of funds	Balance 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
British Academy BIRI Grant	75,340	609,025	658,341	27,257	53,281
Jerusalem Excavation Publications	11,904	-	16	-	11,888
Ancient Jerusalem Project	38,952	-	-	-	38,952
British Academy Incentivisation Grant	5,596	-	1,918	-	3,678
British Academy Advanced Language Training	55,640	-	662	-	54,978
British Academy Strategic Development Fund	6,763	-	6,071	-	692
Travel grant fund	10,000	-	4,980	-	5,020
Kenyon Institute Library Fund	284	100	-	-	384
Business Development Fund	37,176	159,724	159,724	-	37,176
Mapping Digital Heritage in Jordan	12,104	-	7,801	(4,303)	-
Nahreïn Network Project	2,100	(105)	1,995	-	-
Al Tajir Trust	5,000	4,502	9,502	-	-
Tall Dhiban	847	-	-	-	847
BIRI Manifesto	4,563	-	4,563	-	-
		-	-	-	-
	<b>266,269</b>	<b>773,246</b>	<b>855,573</b>	<b>22,954</b>	<b>206,896</b>
<b>General funds</b>	338,139	63,604	55,828	(22,954)	322,961
	<b>604,408</b>	<b>836,850</b>	<b>911,401</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>529,857</b>

## 9. Analysis of Funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	31 Mar 2023	31 Mar 2023	31 Mar 2023	31 Mar 2022	31 Mar 2022	31 Mar 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	17,600	-	17,600	-	18,820	18,820
Other net assets/(liabilities)	(1,791)	(38,230)	(40,021)	401,430	342,958	744,388
Cash at bank	294,800	251,319	546,119	(69,891)	(38,817)	(108,708)
Provisions	-	(105,611)	(105,611)	(124,643)	-	(124,643)
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>310,609</b>	<b>107,478</b>	<b>418,087</b>	<b>206,896</b>	<b>322,961</b>	<b>529,857</b>

**Details of Restricted Funds**

The British Academy BIRI grant is money granted by the British Academy to specifically support research, library collections and conservation, communications and outreach, core establishment costs. It includes amounts from the primary and contingency grants.

The BIRI Collective grant was money granted by the British Academy in 2022/23 to fund the review of the status of the digital archives across all the BIRI's.

The Business Development Fund represents grant-in-aid received from the British Academy for the purposes of supporting fundraising, seeking further sources of research funding, maximising the commercial aspects of operations, and funding cost savings and efficiencies. CBRL bids annually for this grant.

Jerusalem Excavation Publication funds are to be used solely for the publication of the Ancient Jerusalem project, until publication of the last volume in the series. This fund is continuing to receive income from the interest on funds held.

The Ancient Jerusalem Project is funded by the Leverhulme Trust and Institute of Aegean Prehistory. The funds are to bring to publication remaining material from the archaeological excavations directed by Dame Kathleen Kenyon in Jerusalem. This fund is continuing to receive income from the interest on funds held.

The British Academy Incentivisation Grant represents funds awarded to increase institutes disciplinary and funding-base breadth. The grant was awarded to 'map' Social Science Research in Syria. Due to the deteriorating situation in Syria, the focus of the project subsequently shifted to Jordan and the broader Levant.

The British Academy Advanced Language Training represents funds awarded from the British Academy Language and Quantitative Skills Programme. The grant was awarded for Advanced Language Provision in Arabic for post-doctoral researchers.

The British Academy Strategic Development Fund represents funds awarded to research projects to encourage Institutes to broaden their research and funding base.

The Travel Grant Fund represents donations from CBRL members to fund the Travel Grants programme.

The Kenyon Institute library fund consists of donations from St John's College, Oxford to fund book purchases for the Kenyon Institute library. This fund is continuing to receive donations.

The Al Tajir Trust consists of a grant awarded during the year to help fund new work and reading spaces for the library at the Kenyon Institute.

Mapping Digital Heritage in Jordan is a research project to harness digital technologies in the management and protection of cultural heritage with King's College London and the Hashemite University

Tall Dhiban was received from the University of Liverpool for research to strengthen the local stewardship of Tall Dhiban, a historical site 70 kms south of Amman, Jordan.

The Nahrein Network Project funds are to allow a visiting fellowship to the UK on 'Museums in Beirut: Towards a Sustainable Approach to Heritage'.

Aerial Archaeology in Jordan project is long-term research project. The aim is to discover, record, and monitor archaeological sites in Jordan, using aerial photography. The research will help us better understand past human settlement of the various regions in Jordan, and assist in the protection and presentation of important sites, in association with the Department of Antiquities. A grant of £2,430 was received in 2022/23.

BIRI Manifesto (ONLY X) was awarded by the British Academy to develop a collective brand for the 'BIRI' research institutes that are funded by the British Academy.

The Nahrein Network Project funds are to allow a visiting fellowship to the UK on 'Museums in Beirut: Towards a Sustainable Approach to Heritage'.

## Notes to the Financial Statements continued

### 10. Lease commitments

	31 Mar 2023	31 Mar 2022
	£	£
Within 1 year	32,233	2,027
Between 2 and 5 years	91,647	149,760
	<b>123,880</b>	<b>151,787</b>

### 11. Related party transactions

One trustee received a grant of £12,000 to run an event organised by the University of Glasgow. (2022: £Nil). The Charity Commission has given consent that grants may be awarded to trustees provided that: at no time more than one third of the members of the Committee benefit; at no time shall the annual total of grants made to members of the Committee exceed more than one quarter of the annual total expenditure; a member of the Committee shall withdraw from any meeting whilst his or her application for an award of grant is being discussed. This consent gave rise to a change in the constitution and approval was gained for this change at an EGM.

The Deputy Director, a member of the Key Management Personnel, owed £2,644 at 31 March 2023 in under-deducted pension contributions.

### 12. Pension commitments

The organisation participates in the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), a defined benefit multi-employer defined benefit scheme. USS is currently in deficit and at the year-end CBRL had entered into an agreement to participate in a recovery plan to reduce the deficit.

A liability of £64,024 (2022: £94,550) has been recognised with an increase in pension costs of £342 (2022: 31,179 decrease) and an interest charge of £2,836 (2021: £1,068). Contributions in the year totalled £45,710 (2022: £24,140).

The latest available complete actuarial valuation of the Retirement Income Builder is at 31 March 2020 (the valuation date), which was carried out using the projected unit method.

Since the institution cannot identify its share of USS Retirement Income Builder (defined benefit) assets and liabilities, the following disclosures reflect those relevant for those assets and liabilities as a whole.

The 2020 valuation was the sixth valuation for the scheme under the scheme-specific funding regime introduced by the Pensions Act 2004, which requires schemes to have sufficient and appropriate assets to cover their technical provisions. At the valuation date, the value of the assets of the scheme was £66.5 billion and the value of the scheme's technical provisions was £80.6 billion indicating a shortfall of £14.1 billion and a funding ratio of 83%.

The key financial assumptions used in the 2020 valuation are described below. More detail is set out in the Statement of Funding Principles ([uss.co.uk/about-us/valuation-and-funding/statement-of-funding-principles](http://uss.co.uk/about-us/valuation-and-funding/statement-of-funding-principles)).

CPI assumption	Term dependent rates in line with the difference between the Fixed Interest and Index Linked yield curves, less 1.1% p.a. to 2030, reducing linearly by 0.1% p.a. to a long term difference of 0.1% p.a. from 2040
Pension increases (subject to a floor of 0%)	CPI assumption plus 0.05%
Discount rate (forward rates)	Fixed interest gilt yield curve plus: Pre-retirement: 2.75% p.a. Post retirement: 1.00% p.a.

The main demographic assumption used relates to the mortality assumptions. These assumptions are based on analysis of the scheme's experience carried out as part of the 2020 actuarial valuation. The mortality assumptions used in these figures are as follows:

Mortality base table	101% of S2PMA "light" for males and 95% of S3PFA for females.
Future improvements to mortality	CMI 2019 with a smoothing parameter of 7.5, an initial addition of 0.5% p.a. and a long term improvement rate of 1.8% pa for males and 1.6% pa for females

## Notes to the Financial Statements continued

The current life expectancies on retirement at age 65 are:

	2023	2022
Males currently aged 65 (years)	23.6	23.9
Females currently aged 65 (years)	25.5	25.5
Males currently aged 45 (years)	25.3	25.9
Females currently aged 45 (years)	27.1	27.3

A new deficit recovery plan was put in place as part of the 2020 valuation, which requires payment of 6.2% of salaries over the period 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2024 at which point the rate will increase to 6.3%. The 2023 deficit recovery liability reflects this plan. The liability figures have been produced using the following assumptions:

	2023	2022
Discount rate	3.00%	2.50%
Pensionably salary growth	Various	Various

### Overseas pension movement

	2023	2022
	£	£
As at 1 April 2022	30,093	22,258
Severance pay	-	-
Pension charge for the year	11,494	7,835
	<b>41,587</b>	<b>30,093</b>

### 13. Contingent Liabilities

One ex-employee in Jerusalem has lodged a legal claim against the charity for unpaid severance and holiday pay for £65,528. It is anticipated that the case will be agreed and any settlements made by 31 March 2024.












# CBRL Annual Report 2023

Final Audit Report

2023-10-04


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