



# THE BUTRINT FOUNDATION

REPORT 1997/98

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## REPORT FOR 1997/98

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15th July 1998

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## THE TRUSTEES

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**Lord Rothschild**

**Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover**

**Martine d'Anglejan-Chatillon**

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**Sir Patrick Fairweather, Director**

**Prof. Richard Hodges, Director of Archaeology**

**Sally Martin, Project Manager**

(UK Registered Charity No. 1017039)

## FOREWORD BY TRUSTEES

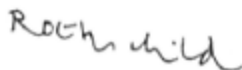
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This is the first time the Butrint Foundation has produced its report in a form designed to tell the story of the Butrint project to a wider public. The decision reflects a number of important recent developments which are having a major impact on Butrint and our work including:

- Growing international recognition that the political and economic situation in Albania is difficult and unstable and is likely to be made worse by developments in Kosovo. Measures to support Albania are urgently needed. This is particularly the case in southern Albania, which was the heart of the disturbances in 1997 and where the economic outlook is bleak.
- Recognition that tourism development offers the best and quickest prospect for the creation of jobs and wealth in southern Albania and that, because of its location and unique combination of archaeology and natural beauty, Butrint is the obvious focus for such development.
- Increased readiness on the part of the World Bank, the European Union and EBRD (all of which have an interest in development in southern Albania) to work with the Butrint Foundation, or to take account of the Foundation's plans, in drawing up their own programmes.
- The success of the Butrint Foundation in raising funds for its projects.

Butrint is not only a precious part of Albania's national heritage, but is one of the most important sites in the eastern Mediterranean. The Butrint Foundation believes that the opportunity exists to work with the Albanian authorities, the international organisations and the private foundations to make Butrint a model for the sensitive, environmentally-sound management of a heritage site and at the same time the motor for economic development in a neglected corner of an exceptionally poor country.

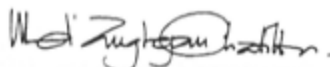
This is an exciting prospect. The Butrint Foundation intends to play its full part. To enable us to do so, we hope that we will be able to count in future, as in the past, on the generous support of organisations and individuals interested in a project which combines historic and archaeological importance with a unique natural environment. Our plans are outlined in the report which follows.



Lord Rothschild



Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover



Martine d'Anglejan-Chatillon

## THE CHARTER OF THE BUTRINT FOUNDATION

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The Butrint Foundation was set up by Lord Rothschild and Lord Sainsbury in January 1993 as a charitable trust. Its principle objective is "to restore, preserve and develop the Butrint site... in Southern Albania for the benefit of the public generally".

Other objectives laid down in the Foundation's Charter include:

- to improve, protect and preserve the natural aspect, character, amenities and ecology of the Butrint Site for the benefit of the public generally
- to excavate, restore, preserve, protect and improve for the benefit of the public generally any locations or constructions within the Butrint Site of national architectural, archaeological, historic or artistic interest
- to promote public access to and enjoyment of the Butrint Site by the creation and augmentation of appropriate facilities and amenities for visitors to it
- to establish, preserve, protect, maintain and improve for the benefit of the public generally any historical records concerning the Butrint Site and the display of any objects discovered there or associated with it
- to conserve animal, bird and plant wildlife within the Butrint Site for the benefit of the public
- to advance education for the benefit of the public generally by the increase of knowledge, understanding and appreciation of matters of historic, artistic archaeological or aesthetic interest relating to the Butrint Site and to promote their allied studies and kindred sciences.

## BACKGROUND NOTE: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK OF BUTRINT

Butrint is a microcosm of 3000 years of Mediterranean history from the archaic Greeks to the Venetians. The walled city of Butrint covers an area of approximately 16 hectares (Fig. 1) on the north side of the Vivari Channel which connects Lake Butrint to the Straits of Corfu. It is likely, however, that at times in its history the city extended over a greater area, including land on the south side of the channel.

The walls enclose the acropolis and the lower city. The acropolis is a long, saddle-backed hill rising to 42 m above sea level at its east end, its steep sides accentuated by a second circuit of walls, which separate it from the natural and artificial terraces around the flanks of the hill. The lower city extends to the Vivari Channel. The most conspicuous monument outside the city walls is the triangular fortress on the south side of the channel. When Colonel Martin Leake visited Butrint in 1805 this was the nucleus of the final, tiny settlement (Fig. 2). Beyond the fortress to the east, lie substantial remains of later Republican to Byzantine date.



Fig. 1: Plan of the Monuments of Butrint.

Fig. 2: Lithograph of the triangular fortress in the 19th century (Henry Cook, private collection)



## HISTORY OF THE EXCAVATIONS

It was perhaps Leake's description of Butrint that led to the arrival of the Italian mission directed by Count Luigi Maria Ugolini in the 1920s. Between 1928 and 1940 the mission carried out a great campaign of excavations, including the excavation of the theatre, the major gateways, the baptistry and several bathhouses. Ugolini also restored the Venetian castle on the acropolis as a study centre for archaeologists. Following the Second World War the excavation of Butrint was undertaken by Albanian archaeologists.

In 1994 the Butrint Foundation and the Albanian Institute of Archaeology signed a three year Agreement to examine the Byzantine phase of Butrint and its environs. The first campaigns undertaken by the Butrint Foundation have concentrated upon making detailed assessments of the archaeology. In Butrint itself, an attempt to establish a more precise understanding of the evolution of the urban topography has been made; firstly by undertaking a new survey of the walled city and its hinterland, and secondly through excavation of the palace complex, close to the Vivari Channel (Fig. 3), and the Baptistry (Fig. 4) and its associated buildings. In addition, surveys have been carried out on several other buildings including the great basilica and all the Byzantine chapels. Preliminary new surveys have also been made of the fortifications. A rolling programme of field survey has identified over 40 archaeological sites within a 20 km radius of Butrint.

Because of strict controls during the long years of the Enver Hoxha regime, there was, until recently, little development in the area around Butrint. The site of Butrint thus takes on a further significance as an area of outstanding natural beauty as important for its ecology as it is for its archaeology.

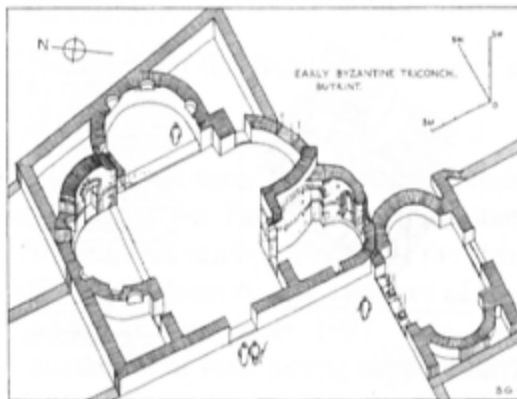


Fig. 3: Axonometric plan of the triconch palace. Fig. 4: The Butrint baptistry.



## CONSERVATION

With the fall of communism in 1991 and the disruption which followed, financial, material and manpower resources for the conservation of the Butrint site were no longer available. One of the first tasks facing the Butrint Foundation when it was set up was therefore to carry out an emergency programme of conservation work to prevent damage to the monuments caused by fast growing vegetation. With the help of a generous grant from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation /World Monuments Fund European Program, the Butrint Foundation, working with the Albanian Institute of Monuments, carried out a programme to manage the woodland of Butrint and make the site more accessible and more attractive to visitors by the establishment of 14 information panels (Fig. 5) along the existing visitor trail, and by publishing a leaflet to promote the site.

The Butrint Foundation managed to continue with the woodland management programme in 1997 with only minor interruptions, despite the political instability in the region. This work was carried out using the Foundation's own resources.

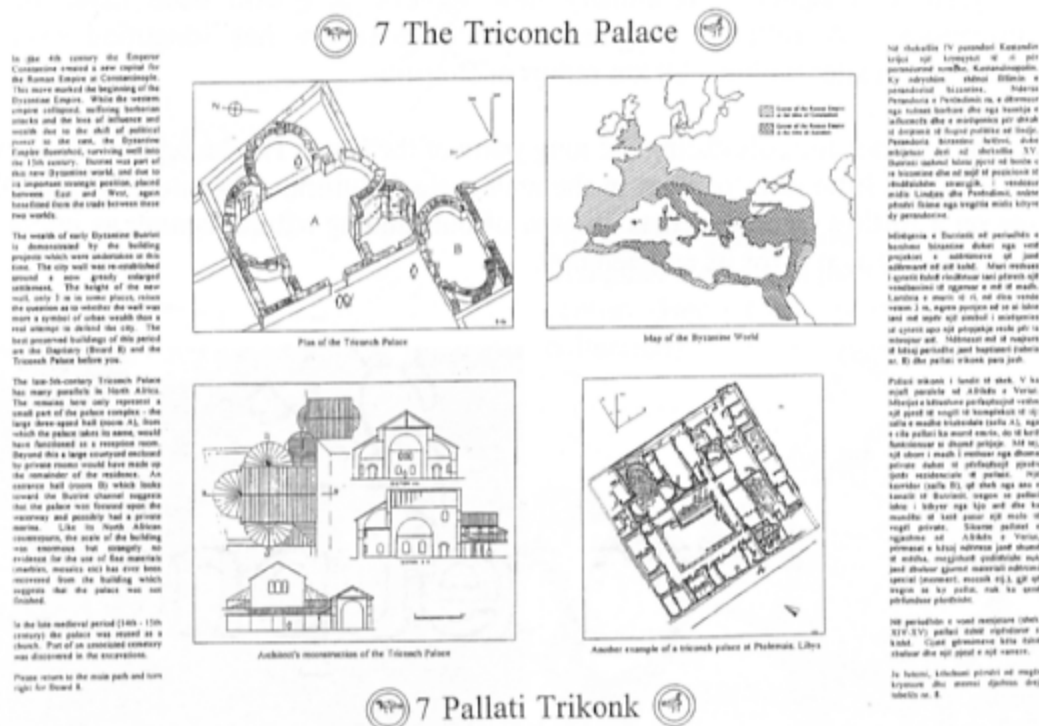


Fig. 5: Information panel on the Butrint visitor trail.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE BUTRINT FOUNDATION IN 1997/98

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As a result of the unsettled situation in Southern Albania, the Foundation was unable to carry out the planned excavations which would have completed the campaign envisaged in the formal agreement reached with the Albanian Institute of Archaeology in 1994. However, the year was not wasted. The Foundation:

- lobbied public and private organisations with an interest in Albania so as to ensure that the importance of Butrint was not lost to view in a convulsive and confused period.
- established (or renewed) contact with funding organisations interested in Albania and which we hoped might be willing to cooperate with the Butrint Foundation in the conservation effort or to improve facilities in the Park.
- reviewed our list of projects for Butrint and considered priorities in the light of the situation in Albania (and particularly the need to do more to encourage the economy in Southern Albania by attracting more tourists) and in Butrint itself.

As soon as the political situation in Albania permitted, the Director went to Tirana to establish contact with the government which took over after the elections in June 1997. He and Mrs Arta Dade, the then newly-appointed Albanian Minister of Culture, travelled together to Butrint in September 1997 to see for themselves the condition of the Archaeological Park after the reported vandalism which occurred during the Spring disturbances. They discovered that the Museum had been looted and the water pumps installed by UNESCO to keep down the levels of water in the theatre had been stolen. Fortunately, the monuments were otherwise intact.

### **A Review of the Butrint Foundation's Activities**

The results of the Butrint Foundation's activities were very positive.

#### *The Albanian Government*

Relations between the Butrint Foundation and the new Albanian Government are excellent. Mr Fatos Nano, the Albanian Prime Minister, received the Director in Tirana in September 1997 and the Prime Minister was the guest of Lord Rothschild and Lord Sainsbury, the Trustees of the Butrint Foundation, during his official visit to London in December 1997. He and his ministerial colleagues have assured the Foundation of their strong support for the Butrint project and the work of the Butrint Foundation.

#### *UNESCO*

As a result of the contact established with UNESCO, the Director and Professor Hodges, Director of Archaeology, were invited to join a UNESCO Mission to Butrint in October 1997. On the basis of the mission's report, the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO included Butrint in the list of World Heritage Sites in Danger when it

met in Naples in December 1997 and voted \$100,000 to the Albanian Government for immediate and medium/longer term measures for Butrint. The Butrint Foundation is delighted that the World Heritage Committee also recommended that UNESCO should work with the Butrint Foundation for the conservation of Butrint.

#### *World Monuments Fund*

In late 1997 the World Monuments Fund again put Butrint on their list of the One Hundred Most Endangered Monuments. This nomination helps to publicise the problems facing Butrint which in turn helps promote our fund raising efforts for the Archaeological Park.

#### *World Bank*

The Butrint Foundation has drawn the attention of the World Bank to the need for planning regulations and strict building controls in the area around Butrint if the site is not to be ruined by unplanned and illegal development. The Butrint Foundation participated in a World Bank mission which visited Tirana and Butrint in spring 1998 to look at ways in which the need for protection of Butrint and the area around the site can be reconciled with the imperative of tourist development.

#### *European Union*

The Butrint Foundation has established itself as an interlocutor of the Commission of the European Union. The Butrint Foundation believes it will be possible to devise projects for financing under the Phare programme which would bring more tourists to Butrint and which would benefit tourism development generally in the Epirus region, which straddles the Greek/Albanian border.

#### *Getty Grant Program*

The Butrint Foundation has received funding from the Getty Grant Program which has enabled us to bring an Albanian craftsman to Great Britain to study stone masonry. This is the first stage in a programme which will, we hope, enable the Albanian authorities to take care of the monuments of Butrint from their own manpower resources.

The Getty Grant Program agreed to fund Phase 1 of the preparation of a conservation master plan for Butrint.

#### *Packard Foundation*

Late in 1997 the Packard Foundation gave the Butrint Foundation a generous grant of \$200,000 as "support for the protection, conservation and study of the archaeological site of Butrint". This grant will enable the Butrint Foundation to carry out many of its priority projects for 1998.

#### *Bamford Family Interests*

Bamford Family Interests have donated one of their renowned JCB earth-moving machines to the Butrint Foundation. It arrived in Saranda in January 1998 and will be used in our work this year.

## PLANS FOR 1998/99

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The Butrint Foundation have ambitious plans for the current year. The priority is to establish a **Master Plan** for the site in collaboration with the Albanian authorities, UNESCO, the World Bank and the Getty Grant Program who generously funded the first phase of this project. This Master Plan will provide a blueprint for the future management of the site and, an agreed list of projects covering conservation, archaeology, the environment, visitor facilities etc. with their relative priorities.

### **Detailed Programme for 1998**

#### *Excavations*

The Butrint Foundation wish to conclude the first phase of excavations at the triconch palace and the baptistry complex and prepare the monuments for public display. We hope then to sign a new agreement with the Albanian Institute of Archaeology.

#### *Archaeological and Historical Research*

A full programme of research is underway. We have commissioned a survey of the U.K. archives pertaining to Butrint. This has brought to light a wealth of material, particularly on the Ali Pasha and Napoleonic periods. The study turned up a range of important early topographic studies of the Butrint area.

We have also embarked on an archive survey of material held in Tirana. Once more a wealth of material is coming to light, including the diplomatic correspondence between Tirana and Rome in the 1920's as the Italian Archaeological Mission were seeking permission to work at Butrint. Over a thousand early photographs of the site and the field notebooks belonging to the Italian team have also been unearthed. To compliment this, a survey is just starting of material in Italian archives.

#### *Scholarships and Bursaries*

To encourage a varied and dynamic research and activity base for the work at Butrint the Butrint Foundation is supporting a range of scholarships and bursaries. These include:

- scholarships at the British School at Athens for Albanian scholars working in the fields of archaeology, history, geography, museology or heritage management,
- a bursary for the final year of research of a doctoral study on Late Antique Epirus.

### *Conservation and Park Management*

The Butrint Foundation proposes to maintain its close collaboration with the Albanian Institute of Monuments and to press on with the planned programme of conservation. This covers: continued woodland management, landscaping, wall conservation, mosaic and fresco conservation and the maintenance and establishment of visitor trails. An international seminar is planned for September when experts will discuss the issues of conservation and display of the mosaics in the baptistry complex.

### *Technical Training*

With the help of the Getty Grant Program, the Butrint Foundation will support the second year of a two year scholarship for a young Albanian to learn techniques of stone masonry and conservation.

### *Visitor Facilities*

A range of improvements are planned for 1998, including:

- the construction of a ticket office. This will ensure that in future visitors to Butrint make a contribution to the upkeep of the site - something which has not happened since 1991.
- publication of a guide book to Butrint by Dr. Neritan Ceka, the distinguished Albanian archaeologist. This will be in English and Albanian.
- setting up of further information panels.

## THE FUTURE

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Albania's situation is difficult. Confidence has not returned after the collapse of the pyramid schemes in winter 1996/97. Law and order has still not been fully restored. Travel is not advised in many parts of the country. Events in Kosovo could set back the process of recovery.

Measures to support Albania are urgently needed. This is particularly true in southern Albania, which was the heart of the disturbances in 1997 and where the economic outlook is bleak.

There is widespread agreement that tourism offers the best and quickest way to bring jobs and wealth to southern Albania.

It is also recognised that Butrint and the surrounding area is the jewel in the crown of tourism development in southern Albania; the place which more than any other will attract foreign tourists. For this reason, the European Union, the World Bank and EBRD are all taking account of Butrint - and the plans of the Butrint Foundation - in their programmes for southern Albania.

The Butrint Foundation fully acknowledges the need for the development of tourism as the best way to improve the economic prospects of the part of the country which has suffered greatly in recent years and to expand employment (which is desperately needed). But this development has to take place without spoiling a site of great archaeological and historical importance set in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Our objective is to make Butrint a model for environmentally sensitive development of a heritage site and a major tourist attraction.

We shall therefore:

- Continue to work to increase international awareness of the importance of the site.
- Lobby vigorously against development projects likely to have an adverse effect on the site or the surrounding countryside.
- Seek to give priority to projects which will make Butrint a more attractive place for visitors and to create proper facilities for them.

What this means in practice depends on the Master Plan which we hope will be agreed before the end of 1998. But we would expect the Foundation's projects to include:

- Restoration and conversion of the 15th-century triangular fortress on the south side of the Vivari Channel on the assumption that, after the opening of the new road from the Greek border to Saranda, most visitors will arrive from the south. The European Union is considering a study which would provide Phare funds for work which would make this project more readily feasible.
- A project, depending on the outcome of the seminar on the conservation of the baptistry, to make it possible for visitors to see the magnificent 6th-century mosaic in the baptistry.
- Publication of the extensive archives on Butrint, including photographic and other material from the pre-World War II Ugolini expedition. We believe this would have a major impact on the promotion of Butrint and southern Albania.
- Restoration of the Venetian Castle on the Acropolis at Butrint and refurbishment of the Museum there using modern techniques.
- A carefully chosen continuing programme of archaeology which, we believe, is likely to make Butrint an even more interesting site for the visitor.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

The attached financial information is taken from the audited financial statements for the Butrint Foundation's financial year ending 5 April 1998. The Foundation's auditors gave an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements for that year.

	Notes	1998 Total	1997 Total
<b>Incoming Resources</b>			
Donations		250,042	96,190
Interest receivable		<u>631</u>	<u>268</u>
<b>Gross Resources Arising In The Year</b>		<u>250,673</u>	<u>96,458</u>
<b>Resources Expended</b>			
Direct Charitable Expenditure			
Archaeology		25,859	34,595
Conservation		7,081	819
Educational Publicity		3,612	16,400
Research Projects		1,000	-
Scholarships and Bursaries		<u>18,553</u>	<u>10,000</u>
		56,105	61,814
<b>Other Expenditure</b>			
Fundraising	2	9,466	2,276
Management & administration	3	<u>25,423</u>	<u>27,923</u>
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	4	<u>90,994</u>	<u>92,013</u>
<b>Net Movement In Funds</b>	6	159,679	4,445
Balances brought forward			
Capital fund	6	68,306	68,306
Income fund	6	<u>(49,393)</u>	<u>(53,838)</u>
Balances carried forward			
Capital fund	6	£68,306	£68,306
Income fund	6	<u>£110,286</u>	<u>£(49,393)</u>
<b>Total Net Funds</b>		<u>£178,592</u>	<u>£ 18,913</u>



## BALANCE SHEET

	Notes	1998	1997
<b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>			
Excavation equipment	5	15,000	-
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Prepayments - Security system		2,000	-
Cash at bank - Sterling deposit account		37,935	26,998
- Sterling current account		1,805	-
- Dollar deposit account		118,554	8,447
- Dollar current account		665	237
Cash in hand		<u>15,983</u>	<u>138</u>
		176,942	35,820
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>			
Accruals		<u>13,350</u>	<u>16,907</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>163,592</u>	<u>18,913</u>
<b>Total Assets Less</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		<u>£178,592</u>	<u>£ 18,913</u>
Represented by:			
<b>Funds</b>			
Capital	6	68,306	68,306
Income	6	<u>110,286</u>	<u>( 49,393)</u>
		<u>£178,592</u>	<u>£ 18,913</u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### 1) Accounting Policies

- a) **Basis of Accounting**  
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.
- b) **Income**  
Cash donations and interest income are included in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are received.
- Deeds of Covenant are accounted for in accordance with the matching concept by bringing income into the statement of financial activities over the period to which the covenants relate.
- c) **Fixed Assets**  
Tangible fixed assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Excavation equipment 25% per annum

<b>2) Fundraising</b>	1998	1997
Staff costs	6,667	1,667
Secretarial costs	1,285	587
Travel costs	<u>1,514</u>	<u>22</u>
	<u>£9,466</u>	<u>£2,276</u>

<b>3) Management And Administration</b>	1998	1997
Staff fees	13,633	23,133
Secretarial costs	2,012	1,174
Audit fee - charge for the year	1,762	2,009
- under provision in respect of the previous year	-	70
Accountancy	646	-
Travel and subsistence	2,491	45
Bank charges and interest	119	58
Telephone and stationery	380	560
Miscellaneous	128	-
Loss on translation of foreign currency balances	<u>4,252</u>	<u>874</u>
	<u>£25,423</u>	<u>£27,923</u>

During the course of the year, no payments were received by the Trustees in respect of remuneration or expenses.

#### 4) Total Resources Expended

	Staff	Other	1998 Total	1997 Total
Direct charitable expenditure	8,000	48,105	56,105	61,814
Fundraising	6,667	2,799	9,466	2,276
Management and administration	<u>13,633</u>	<u>11,790</u>	<u>25,423</u>	<u>27,923</u>
	<u>£28,300</u>	<u>£62,694</u>	<u>£90,994</u>	<u>£92,013</u>

Staff costs are comprised of fees paid to the part time director, self-employed individuals, temporary agency staff and academic institutions which provide staff resources. The Foundation has no employees.

#### 5) Tangible Fixed Assets

Excavation  
equipment

##### Cost

Additions	<u>20,000</u>
At 5 April 1998	20,000

##### Depreciation

Charge for the year	<u>5,000</u>
At 5 April 1998	5,000

##### Net Book Value

At 5 April 1998	<u>£15,000</u>
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#### 6) Movement In Funds

	Capital Fund	Income Fund	Total
At 6 April 1997	68,306	( 49,393)	18,913
Surplus for the year	<u>-</u>	<u>159,679</u>	<u>159,679</u>
At 5 April 1998	<u>£68,306</u>	<u>£110,286</u>	<u>£178,592</u>

The Charity has no restricted funds; the Capital Fund represents the original settlement on the establishment of the Foundation and the Income Fund represents the income less expenditure since that date.