

Charity registration number 1015546 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 02752793

DORCHESTER ARTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

DORCHESTER ARTS

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	P Smith A Eigeland H Trevorrow A Constable M Willdridge S Veale A Wakeman H Hutchinson T Frere	(Appointed 20 August 2024)
Secretary	M Tattersall	
Charity number	1015546	
Company number	02752793	
Registered office	Magistrates' Room Corn Exchange High East Street Dorchester Dorset DT1 1HF	
Independent examiner	CB Reid Limited Wadebridge House 16 Wadebridge Square Poundbury Dorchester Dorset DT1 3AQ	

DORCHESTER ARTS

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 5
Independent examiner's report	6
Statement of financial activities	7 - 8
Balance sheet	9
Notes to the financial statements	10 - 18

DORCHESTER ARTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's 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 (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Objectives and activities

a. POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

The principal objective of the company is to promote, maintain, improve and advance education particularly by the encouragement of the Arts. Dorchester Arts aims both to respond to the needs of the community and to promote events of the highest quality, and in doing so create well informed and enthusiastic audiences, to enable creativity, talent and skills of local people. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

b. ACTIVITIES FOR ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES

Dorchester Arts meets its objectives by running a professional and community arts programme.

c. MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO FURTHER THE CHARITY'S PURPOSES FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT

Dorchester Arts contributes to the cultural and social life of Dorset's county town and the wider county through programming arts events every week of the year. We seek to provide work suited to a very wide range of audiences, including specialist work for marginalised or little-served audiences such as those with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties.

In addition, we either directly organise or support a number of regular groups that allow local people to further their own creativity, including: Dorchester Youth Theatre (7-18), Connect drama (all ages) and Dorchestra community orchestra (all ages). In addition, we organise arts activities for specific groups, such as our regular Parkinson's Dance classes and Rise (art therapy for post-natal depression and anxiety) as well as supporting annual events for young people and participatory activities linked to our performance programme. We continue to deliver this health and wellbeing through the arts programme in Sherborne as well as Dorchester. We organise major participatory projects every few years, involving participation activities for musicians, dancers, visual artists and those living with chronic health conditions and disabilities. The health and social cohesion benefits of providing a regular, integrated programme of arts performances and activities are well recognised and are reflected in our Funding Agreements with Dorchester Town Council and Dorset Council.

We maintain accessible pricing across our program and offer discounts for those on low income and for young people. Essential carers can attend all performances free of charge.

We provide opportunities for audiences and artists to meet and discuss their work (e.g. through post-show Q&A sessions or artist talks at exhibitions) to further our educative aims and broaden public appreciation of the arts.

We support local creative talent through providing a platform for developing and performing new work (music, dance, drama and film) and through small- and large-scale projects drawing on local talent.

We work closely with our partner arts and culture organisations (including Activate Performing Arts, Dorset Museum, Shire Hall, New Hardy Players, Dorset Community Play Association and a variety of local festivals etc) and non-arts organisations (including local Councils, healthcare providers, and venues suited to performances and participation activities) to ensure that a rich mix of interlinked arts activities is available to the local population throughout the year.

DORCHESTER ARTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Achievements and performance

a. REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Dorchester Arts aims to "bring the best of the arts to Dorset's county town, give our community creative opportunities and nurture local talent because we believe that where the arts thrive people and places do too". This is done through a programme of community arts activities and professional performances.

Dorchester Arts operates from the Corn Exchange/Municipal Buildings in the centre of town and enjoys excellent relations with the Dorchester Town Council, the owners of the premises. A wholly owned subsidiary, Dorchester Arts Trading Limited, operates the bar located at the Corn Exchange and provides bar services for events held at other venues.

Our mission is to place the arts at the heart of our community, so as to involve, inspire and entertain people all year round.

Our goals are:

- To inspire and entertain people through excellent, diverse and innovative work across all art forms.
- To involve the whole community, especially young people, in a wide range of participatory activities.
- To learn about and develop our relationship with our existing and potential audiences.
- To collaborate with arts and non-arts organisations in developing a vibrant arts infrastructure in the community.
- To actively support the development of new work.
- To be an ambitious but sustainable organisation.

In recent years, we have taken over the management of the Corn Exchange building through our agreement with Dorchester Town Council. This arrangement continues to work well and both sides are happy that it is achieving its aim of making the building operate more efficiently and effectively for the benefit of the whole community. Regular meetings continue to be held to monitor progress towards the outcomes laid out in the Partnership Agreement. As well as our own very busy programme, we have new regular hirers starting to use the building every year and it is heavily booked for one-off events, ranging from meetings and award ceremonies to weddings and parties. In addition, we continue to see the clear benefits of the Town Council's improvements to the building's infrastructure – reduced utility bills as a result of the biomass heating system, solar panels and improved insulation; improved access to toilet facilities; and office space, dressing rooms and storage that meets our needs and those of our hirers and visiting artists.

The major development during this period was the extensive refurbishment of the front of house areas of the Corn Exchange, funded by Section 106 monies from Poundbury and CIL contributions (both administered by Dorset Council), and the Town Council. We worked closely with the architects and contractors throughout the process to ensure that the result was both functional and respectful of the heritage of the building. Alongside the previously refurbished auditorium, the resulting art gallery, new toilets, bar and café area will finally provide the county town with an arts hub that it has needed and deserved for so long.

The refurbished Hardy Theatre continues to provide another welcome improvement to the arts infrastructure of the town and wider county. Not only is it allowing us to bring bigger acts to the town, but this is also translating into box office gross receipts in excess of £10000 for single shows, a level that would have been impossible without this facility being in place. We continue to programme work into other indoor and outdoor venues throughout the year, including St Mary's Church, Maumbury Rings, Athelhampton House and the Gransden Hall at Sherborne Girl's School.

We continued to present a varied programme of more than 120 professional arts performances in a variety of venues, both indoors and outdoors, from new and local performers to well-known names. Highlights included performances by the graduates from the BA course in circus at Circomedia, The Kanneh-Masons and Friends, The Lord Chamberlain's Men, Lost Dog Dance, Focus, Dorsetborn (a new Dorset-based theatre company), James B Partridge, and Tenebrae. Another huge success was a collaboration between Dorchester Arts, New Hardy Players and Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum to re-stage Six Men Of Dorset. The play, first performed for the centenary of the trial of the Tolpuddle Martyrs and now revived for a large community cast across two venues, proved so popular that we programmed a second series of dates and attracted more than 1000 audience members across the run.

DORCHESTER ARTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

We continued to develop our support for writers, specifically those writing for performance. This project hinges around our festival, The Script's The Thing, which takes place every 18 months and features the performance of 100 scripts across 5 venues and more than 25 talks and workshops from industry professionals. In the year in question, we held several 'Little Bit of The Script's The Thing' events across Dorset, maintaining the profile of the project and continuing to give local writers a platform for their work.

Our community engagement programme in both Dorchester and Sherborne has continued to flourish under the guidance of our Community Engagement Manager. As reported last year, we are still finding that the funding for the whole creative health programme is becoming harder to find. Although we have continued to find piecemeal funding for several programmes, we still need to find a more sustainable solution in the long term and are working with various partners, including the Arts Development Company, to try to achieve this.

Financial review

The accompanying accounts, which have been independently examined, show that the financial performance of Dorchester Arts during 24/25 was not as strong with a small loss of £3,220 as compared with the generation of an operational surplus of £21,891 in the previous year. This reflected both an increase in general costs, as was the case across the UK economy, and increasingly tight margins in several areas of operation.

Box office receipts at £262k were 32% higher than the previous year but performance and direct ticketing costs were higher, resulting in an increase of only £10k to £42k compared with the previous year in the performance programme surplus, demonstrating the tightening of margins mentioned above.

DA received a total of £31.3k in grant support from our two sponsoring bodies, namely Dorset Council (£20k) and Dorchester Town Council (£11.3k) and is immensely grateful for this level of assistance.

Donations and Gifts remained at a healthy £47k. Although within this total figure income from membership sales and fundraising events both slipped back slightly, we were heartened by the generosity of our individual donors, most notably to our *Bridge Another Gap* crowdfunder appeal, which provided valuable funds to make up for the disruption in our business caused by the building works.

The income arising from room hire within the Corn Exchange decreased from £43k to £30k. Income from regular hirers remained static, so this was largely due to a drop-off in one-off hires, due to the poor condition of some of the spaces available prior to refurbishment and to the busy performance programme eating into available dates for hires. The recently completed improvements to the front of the building are already showing a turnaround in this pattern, supporting the theory that this was not a long term trend.

Income from the DA subsidiary company, Dorchester Arts Trading Ltd. was £14k which was a slight decrease from the £15k generated in the previous year. Once again, the increasing costs of staff and stock combined with pressures on consumer spending made for challenging conditions and this was reflected across the hospitality sector both locally and nationally. The majority of this surplus arose from operating the bar in the Corn Exchange. The improved bar facilities at the front of the building should provide scope for increased income from this area once the new business is established and the cafe, though unlikely to generate significant additional income, should attract far more casual visitors, encouraging engagement with Dorchester Arts and leading to increased sales in multiple areas of business (memberships, ticket sales, gallery etc).

There were, as in previous years, some significant movements within these totals for Administration and Fundraising costs some of which relate to the performance, venue and direct ticketing costs referred to above. In spite of much higher ticket income, both Stationery and Print & Advertising costs were kept under tight control. Telephone and Bank Charges were both reduced through renegotiation with the respective suppliers of those services.

Staff costs rose by £6.9k to £148.5k principally reflecting a more modest across-the-board salary increase than had been the case in the previous year when an element of 'catch-up' had been needed.

The charge for depreciation has risen to £5.9k as the result of a further increase in expenditure on capital items, primarily in The Corn Exchange as we continue to make improvements to the facilities there. DA's process in respect of capital purchases is detailed under para 1.6 of the Accounting Policies but in essence items are written off over a four year period on a straight-line basis.

DORCHESTER ARTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Property Costs (including repairs and maintenance) showed a modest increase to £35k and can therefore be considered to have stabilized after the large decrease commented on in last year's report.

The closing Restricted Reserve figure stands at £55,583 and this has been fully reconciled with the individual balances of all our current projects as at 31 March 2025. The substantial increase in this fund is largely due to increased Project Income relating to our outreach and creative health activities and to Dorchester Youth Theatre now returning under the umbrella of Dorchester Arts after some years of semi-independence.

As a result of these movements the balance on our Unrestricted Reserves Account at the year-end stood at £94,232. Although the small loss for the year was disappointing, this level of reserves is comfortably above the Charity Commission's minimum recommended level and reflected the resilience of the organisation in being able to conduct extensive capital works while remaining open and maintaining performance in all areas of its business model in spite of this disruption in operating conditions.

We therefore remain confident that we can continue to provide Dorchester and the wider county with an ambitious wellbeing programme and range of first-class entertainment and educational events for the benefit of the whole community. Thus, whilst acknowledging that we operate within a challenging environment, both socially, financially and commercially the Board views the future with confidence and positivity.

Structure, governance and management

a. GOING CONCERN

The trustees have considered the financial position of the charity, both during the period and as a result of the current economic climate and have assessed both financial and operational risk. They are of the opinion that the charity has sufficient financial resources to continue to operate as a going concern for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of the financial statements. For further information please refer to the financial review section of the trustee's report.

b. RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees' policy regarding reserves is to aim to maintain sufficient funds to ensure running of the organisation for at least 3 months. This policy is normally based on the total of last year's non programme expenditure.

Although the general free reserves have decreased in the year due to the exceptional factors indicated above, this target continues to be met. The trustees are aware that the reserves policy needs to be monitored closely moving forward.

c. CONSTITUTION

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by Articles of Association.

The company is constituted under Articles of Association. The company registered number is 2752793 and the charity registered number is 1015546.

d. METHOD OF APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Trustees are elected annually at the AGM but casual vacancies may be filled during the year subject to formal election at the AGM.

Trustees, who are also directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of the signature on the financial statements were:

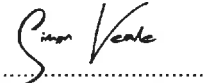
P Smith
A Eigeland
H Trevorrow
A Constable
M Willdridge
S Veale
A Wakeman
H Hutchinson
T Frere

(Appointed 20 August 2024)

DORCHESTER ARTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



S Veale
Trustee

03 Dec 2025
Date:

DORCHESTER ARTS

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF DORCHESTER ARTS

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Dorchester Arts (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

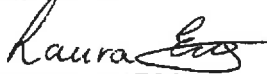
Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Laura Evans FCCA
CB Reid Limited

Wadebridge House
16 Wadebridge Square
Poundbury
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 3AQ

Dated: 08...12...25..

DORCHESTER ARTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025	Unrestricted funds general designated 2024	Unrestricted funds designated 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:								
Donations and legacies	2	78,321	-	78,321	115,735	-	-	115,735
Other trading activities	3	342,144	121,623	463,767	252,546	-	72,612	325,158
Investments	4	3,067	-	3,067	1,813	-	-	1,813
Other income	5	13,979	-	13,979	14,999	-	-	14,999
Total income		<u>437,511</u>	<u>121,623</u>	<u>559,134</u>	<u>385,093</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,612</u>	<u>457,705</u>
Expenditure on:								
Raising funds	6	8,041	-	8,041	3,215	-	-	3,215
Charitable activities	7	432,690	105,132	537,822	359,987	7,500	101,055	468,542
Total expenditure		<u>440,731</u>	<u>105,132</u>	<u>545,863</u>	<u>363,202</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>101,055</u>	<u>471,757</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>(3,220)</u>	<u>16,491</u>	<u>13,271</u>	<u>21,891</u>	<u>(7,500)</u>	<u>(28,443)</u>	<u>(14,052)</u>
Transfers between funds		(125)	125	-	12,089	(4,923)	(7,166)	-
Net movement in funds	9	<u>(3,345)</u>	<u>16,616</u>	<u>13,271</u>	<u>33,980</u>	<u>(12,423)</u>	<u>(35,609)</u>	<u>(14,052)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:								
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		97,577	38,967	136,544	63,597	12,423	74,576	150,596
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		<u>94,232</u>	<u>55,583</u>	<u>149,815</u>	<u>97,577</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,967</u>	<u>136,544</u>

DORCHESTER ARTS

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

DORCHESTER ARTS

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		11,630		11,481
Investments	14		13,122		15,000
			<u>24,752</u>		<u>26,481</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	15	11,100		5,603	
Cash at bank and in hand		175,532		164,466	
		<u>186,632</u>		<u>170,069</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(61,569)		(60,006)	
Net current assets			<u>125,063</u>		<u>110,063</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>149,815</u>		<u>136,544</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	17	55,583		38,967	
Unrestricted funds		94,232		97,577	
			<u>149,815</u>		<u>136,544</u>


The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 03 Dec 2025



S Veale
Trustee

Company registration number 02752793 (England and Wales)

DORCHESTER ARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Dorchester Arts is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Magistrates' Room, Corn Exchange, High East Street, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1HF.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

The trustees have considered the financial position of the charity, both during the period and as a result of the current economic climate and have assessed both financial and operational risk. They are of the opinion that the charity has sufficient financial resources to continue to operate as a going concern for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of the financial statements. For further information please refer to the financial review section of the trustee's report.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Designated funds comprise funds which have been set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes. The purposes and uses of the designated funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Government grants are recognised based on the performance model. Grants that do not impose specified future performance-related conditions are recognised when the grant is received. Grants that impose specified future performance-related conditions are only recognised when these conditions are met.

DORCHESTER ARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the company and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the company's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the company apportioned to charitable activities.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	25% straight line
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The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the charity. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

DORCHESTER ARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

DORCHESTER ARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2 Grants, membership and donated income

	Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	47,013	50,871
Grants from public bodies	31,308	64,864
	<u>78,321</u>	<u>115,735</u>

Grant income represents local authority grants from Dorset Council (£20,000) and Dorchester Town Council (£11,308).

3 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Other fundraising activities	30,681	-	30,681	44,565	-	44,565
Box office admission charges	262,372	-	262,372	198,907	-	198,907
Project income	49,091	121,623	170,714	9,074	72,612	81,686
	<u>342,144</u>	<u>121,623</u>	<u>463,767</u>	<u>252,546</u>	<u>72,612</u>	<u>325,158</u>

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	3,067	1,813
	<u>3,067</u>	<u>1,813</u>

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Distributions from subsidiaries	13,979	14,999
	<u>13,979</u>	<u>14,999</u>

DORCHESTER ARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Other fundraising costs	8,041	3,215

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	148,478	141,603
Depreciation and impairment	5,901	4,388
Programmes and performers	206,195	151,456
Printing and advertising	13,527	16,895
Stationary	1,276	1,454
Property costs including repairs and maintenance	35,144	32,306
Travel and training	49	450
Insurance	2,518	2,069
Bank charges	9,309	13,487
Miscellaneous, materials and sundry	3,706	3,155
Telephone	2,682	4,927
Venue costs	2,105	1,840
Project expenditure	105,132	93,012
	<u>536,022</u>	<u>467,042</u>
Share of support and governance costs (see note 8)		
Governance	1,800	1,500
	<u>537,822</u>	<u>468,542</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	432,690	359,987
Unrestricted funds - designated	-	7,500
Restricted funds	105,132	101,055
	<u>537,822</u>	<u>468,542</u>

DORCHESTER ARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2025 £	2024 £
Independent Examiner's fees	-	1,800	1,800	1,500
	-	1,800	1,800	1,500
Analysed between Charitable activities	-	1,800	1,800	1,500

The Independent Examiner's remuneration amounts to an Independent Examination fee of £1,800 (2024 - £1,500) which includes £1,000 (2024 - £900) for preparation of the accounts.

9 Net movement in funds

	2025 £	2024 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	1,800	1,500
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	5,901	4,388

10 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
	6	6

Employment costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	148,478	141,603

No employees received total employee benefits of more than £60,000 (2020 - NIL).

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

DORCHESTER ARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £
Cost	
At 1 April 2024	38,704
Additions	6,050
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2025	44,754
	<hr/>
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 April 2024	27,223
Depreciation charged in the year	5,901
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2025	33,124
	<hr/>
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	11,630
	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 March 2024	11,481
	<hr/> <hr/>

14 Fixed asset investments

	Other investments
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2024 & 31 March 2025	1
	<hr/>
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	1
	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 March 2024	1
	<hr/> <hr/>

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Other investments comprise:			
Investments in subsidiaries	21	1	1
Loans to subsidiaries	21	13,121	14,999
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		13,122	15,000
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

DORCHESTER ARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

15 Debtors		
	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	9,448	3,820
Other debtors	452	-
Prepayments and accrued income	1,200	1,783
	<u>11,100</u>	<u>5,603</u>

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred income	33,367	52,322
Trade creditors	23,553	2,918
Other creditors	850	1,643
Accruals	3,799	3,123
	<u>61,569</u>	<u>60,006</u>

17 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
	38,967	121,623	(105,132)	125	55,583
	<u>38,967</u>	<u>121,623</u>	<u>(105,132)</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>55,583</u>
Previous year:					
	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
	74,576	72,612	(101,055)	(7,166)	38,967
	<u>74,576</u>	<u>72,612</u>	<u>(101,055)</u>	<u>(7,166)</u>	<u>38,967</u>

18 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
General funds	97,577	437,511	(440,731)	(125)	94,232
	<u>97,577</u>	<u>437,511</u>	<u>(440,731)</u>	<u>(125)</u>	<u>94,232</u>

DORCHESTER ARTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

18 Unrestricted funds (Continued)

Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	63,597	385,093	(363,202)	12,089	97,577

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
At 31 March 2025:			
Tangible assets	11,630	-	11,630
Investments	13,122	-	13,122
Current assets/(liabilities)	69,480	55,583	125,063
	<u>94,232</u>	<u>55,583</u>	<u>149,815</u>
	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:			
Tangible assets	11,481	-	11,481
Investments	15,000	-	15,000
Current assets/(liabilities)	71,096	38,967	110,063
	<u>97,577</u>	<u>38,967</u>	<u>136,544</u>

20 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year.

21 Subsidiaries

These financial statements are separate charity financial statements for Dorchester Arts.

Details of the charity's subsidiaries at 31 March 2025 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held	
				Direct	Indirect
Dorchester Arts Trading Limited (Co. Number 09620457)	England	Retail sale of beverages	Ordinary shares	100.00	

Dorchester Arts
The Corn Exchange
High East Street
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 1HF
Company Number: 02752793

CB Reid Limited
Wadebridge House
16 Wadebridge Square
Poundbury
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 3AQ

25 November 2025

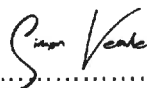
Dear Sirs

We confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience and, where appropriate, of inspection of supporting documentation, sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can properly make each of the following representations to you, in connection with your examination of the charity's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

- 1 We acknowledge, as trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, our collective responsibility under the Charities Act 2011 and Companies Act 2006 for presenting financial statements, which give a true and fair view and confirm that we have approved the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. We also acknowledge our responsibility for making accurate representations to you. All the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your assignment and all the transactions undertaken by the charity have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records. All other records and related information, including minutes of all trustee and management meetings, have been made available to you.
- 2 We confirm that the charity is eligible for an independent examination of its financial statements, and that there are no circumstances which we should draw to your attention which would invalidate this eligibility. We acknowledge that the work performed by you is substantially less in scope than an audit performed in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK).
- 3 We confirm that the accounting policies and estimation techniques adopted for the preparation of the financial statements are the most appropriate to the circumstances in which the charity operates.
- 4 All grants, donations and other incoming resources, the receipt of which is subject to specific terms or conditions, have been notified to you. There have been no breaches of terms or conditions during the period in the application of such incoming resources.
- 5 Other than those disclosed in the financial statements we are not aware of any material liabilities, provisions, contingent liabilities, contingent assets or contracted for capital commitments that need to be provided for or disclosed in the financial statements.

- 6 The charity has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the charity's assets except as disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.
- 7 Other than those disclosed in the financial statements, the charity has not entered into any transactions or has balances outstanding involving trustees, officers or other related parties, which require disclosure under the law or the financial reporting framework adopted, including the Charities SORP. If relevant, appropriate disclosure has been made of the control of the charity.
- 8 We acknowledge our responsibility for the design and implementation of internal controls to prevent and detect errors or fraud, and have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud. We are unaware of any irregularities, including fraud and suspected fraud, involving management, employees or others who have significant roles in internal control, or those employed by the charity where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. No allegations of such irregularities or breaches have come to our notice.
- 9 We are unaware of any breaches or possible breaches of statute, regulations, contracts, agreements or the charity's constitution which might result in the charity suffering significant penalties or other loss. No allegations of such irregularities or breaches have come to our notice. We confirm that the charity has had no non-routine communication with Charity Commission during or since the period of which you are unaware.
- 10 We have reviewed the affairs of the charity and confirm that no income is subject to income or capital gains tax. We have also reviewed the VAT treatment in relation to contractual services provided by the charity and confirm that VAT has been correctly accounted for
- 11 The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis as we believe that adequate cash resources will be available to cover the charity's requirements for working capital and capital expenditure for at least the next twelve months. We are not aware of any other factors which could put into jeopardy the charity's going concern status during or beyond this period.
- 12 There have been no events since the balance sheet date which necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto. Should further material events occur, which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, we will advise you accordingly.

Yours faithfully



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Signed on behalf of the board of trustees

