Company Registration No. 07867493
Charity Number: 1145062

THE JOSEPHINE HART POETRY FOUNDATION

(a company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 December 2025

THE JOSEPHINE HART POETRY FOUNDATION
(a company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2025

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THE JOSEPHINE HART POETRY FOUNDATION
(a company limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2025

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

TRUSTEES

Lord M Saatchi
M Henry
M Grandage
T Duffy

REGISTERED OFFICE

128 City Road
London
EC1V 2NX

BANKERS

HSBC Private Bank (UK) Limited
28 St James's Street
London
SW1A 1JB

SOLICITORS

Bates Wells & Braithwaite London LLP
2-6 Cannon Street
London
EC4M 6YH

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025. The charity is registered with the Charity Commission under number 1145062 and as a company under number 07867493.

The trustees' report (which is also the directors' report) has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption, including the exemption from preparing a strategic report.

TRUSTEES

The trustees who served the charity throughout the year and to date were as follows:

Lord M Saatchi
M Grandage (appointed 4 January 2025)
T Duffy (appointed 24 January 2025)
M Henry

Trustees are appointed at trustees' meetings in accordance with the Articles of Association.

No trustee has any beneficial interest in the charitable company. All trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up. The number of guarantors as of 31 December 2024 was 3.

PURPOSES AND AIMS

The charity's purposes as set out in the objects contained in the company's memorandum of association are to:

- advance the arts and culture for the benefit of the general public, particularly, but not exclusively, the art of literature and poetry;
- advance the education of the general public, particularly, but not exclusively in literature and poetry; and
- advance or promote such further charitable purposes for the benefit of the general public as the Trustees shall in their discretion think fit.

Ensuring the charity's work delivers its aims

The trustees review the activities each year. This report lists the events they have supported:

JHPF Live Events and Charitable Partnerships 2025

- 6 March 2025: JHPF in partnership with The British Library — A Celebration of Sylvia Plath and Emily Dickinson, marking twenty years of partnership between the Foundation and the Library. The reading was preceded by a private view, arranged with the Library's Eccles Institute for the Americas and Oceania, of the British Library's Sylvia Plath holdings. Poems read by Joely Richardson, Vanessa Redgrave, Monica Dolan and Pippa Bennet-Warner.
- 15 June 2025: The Poetry of the Natural World, presented in partnership with the Nevill Holt Festival at Nevill Holt Hall. Poems read by Denise Gough, Joan Iyiola and Giles Terera, with works by Yeats, Dickinson, Keats, Coleridge, Tennyson, Shakespeare and Dylan Thomas.
- 15 June 2025: In a joint collaboration with Dead Poets Live, school finalists from the David Ross Education Trust workshops performed their poems after a show on why poetry matters, staged by Dead Poets Live, at the Nevill Holt Festival.
- 20 September 2025: The Foundation provided the poetry programme for the Poetry Spectacular at The Queen's Reading Room Festival, Chatsworth House — an evening of poetry and dinner in the Carriage House, hosted by Gyles Brandreth with readings from Roger McGough CBE and Sir Ben Okri.
- 17 November 2025: Soar, Voices, Soar — an evening of poetry and music at Apsley House, staged in collaboration with the Royal Academy of Music and hosted by the Duke and Duchess of Wellington. The evening combined a poetry reading with a song recital by Royal Academy of Music students.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

JHPF Film Poems on social media 2025

The Foundation continued to publish its weekly *Poem of the Week* newsletter to subscribers throughout 2025, drawing on poems and readings from the archive.

- January 2025: Showcase on Katherine Philips, T.S.Eliot, Lord Byron, Robert Burns and various archive readings. Launch of our new website promotion.
- February 2025: Various promotional reels to promote the next Poetry Hour on 6th March. Celebration of World Book Day. Showcases on Sylvia Plath and Emily Dickinson.
- March 2025: Readings from the March Poetry Hour and various archive readings.
- April 2025: More readings from the recent Poetry Hour. Showcases on Walt Whitman, Robert Frost and Rupert Brooke. Promotion of the Nevill Holt Festival Poetry Hour.
- May 2025: Promotion of the Nevill Holt Festival Poetry Hour on 15th June and various archive readings.
- June 2025: Promotion of the Nevill Holt Festival Poetry Hour on 15th June and various archive footage including Joely Richardson reading Emily Dickinson. Photos of the poetry performance workshops held across schools in the Midlands throughout May and June.
- July 2025: Launch of the updated weekly poem and more footage from the children's poetry workshops.
- August 2025: Archive footage including Percy Bysshe Shelley's 'Ozymandias'. Showcase on our RADA yearly donation and what they use it for.
- September 2025: Showcase on Mary Oliver and Robert Lowell and celebration of the birthday of Alfred Noyes Plus archive footage including Bob Geldof reading W.B. Yeats.
- October 2025: Showcase on May Wedderburn Cannon and archive footage including Rupert Brooke read by John Standing. Archive outtakes of Freddie Fox and Joanna David.
- November 2025: Showcase on Edmund Blunden and various archive footage including Sophie Cookson reading Sylvia Plath.
- December 2025: Archive footage of a T.S. Eliot reading by John Standing and Wilfred Owen read by Patrick Kennedy.

JHPF Education, 2025

- scholarships provided to students at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in 2025
- Week of Poetry Training and the JHPF Poetry Masterclass ran at RADA in February 2025
- Poetry performance workshops and competitions ran in David Ross Education Trust schools.

JHPF General Administration

- Work continued re-organising and cataloguing the Foundation's digital archive.
- The trustees met during the year to review the Foundation's programme and partnerships.
- Trustee meetings were held on 9th January, 8th May, 4th September, 24th October (special meeting) and 11th December.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The trustees referred to and had due regard for the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing their aims and objectives and in planning their future activities. By delivering virtual events and online videos of poetry readings by great actors with introductions by Josephine Hart, the public benefits by understanding how poetry can comfort and heal in life. Particularly relevant during the Covid-19 pandemic. As Josephine Hart says; Poetry is 'Life Saving'. The Poetry App makes the poetry of 40 great poets

TRUSTEES' REPORT

accessible and searchable free, enabling the public all over the world to hear and see some of the world's great poetry read aloud by 80 of the world's great actors.

The App is free and the website, www.thepoetryhour.com<http://www.thepoetryhour.com> furthers our advances within education. The App and the website contain zero advertising so are appropriate for use within schools and for children of all ages.

The British Library Poetry Hours have been running for the last 22 years on an average of four times per year, with an audience capacity of 250 people. Many of the events have been sold out long in advance. We have increased our active online community engagement by tenfold during the pandemic reaching out to, and partnering with, other poetry charities, educational establishments, cultural institutions and diplomatic missions in the UK, Europe and the USA.

PRINCIPAL FUNDING SOURCES

Lord Saatchi is the principal donor.

INVESTMENT POLICY

The Charity's assets are held in cash at HSBC. As well as the activities reported above, the Trustees have been considering a variety of projects including sponsorship of a literary prize and the funding of a project to use the app to teach poetry in schools.

RESERVES POLICY

The reserves should provide the charity with adequate financial stability and the means for it to achieve its charitable objectives for a minimum of the next twelve months.

Whilst open to spending capital on a major project or projects, the Charity wishes to keep sufficient funds on hand to continue with its present activities on a continuing basis. The reserves as at 31 December 2025 were £334,278 (2024: £134,520). The expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2025 was £126,242 (2024: £160,203).

During the year ended 31 December 2025, there was an increase in the level of reserves due to net income for the year of £199,758 (2024: net income of £97,860). The trustees aim to have reserves equivalent to at least a year's expenditure. Expenditure varies each year depending on the activities carried out in the year and Lord Saatchi has committed to donating funds to maintain the reserves when necessary. He donated £250,000 in April 2024 and £250,000 in February 2025 to ensure adequate funds are available.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Foundation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 1 December 2011 and registered as a charity on 14 December 2011. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the object and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Article of Association.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

New trustees may be appointed by the existing trustees. Each trustee holds office for a term of three years, renewable for further three year terms and which can be extended at the end of each term and is approved by the other trustees.

Trustee induction and training

The induction and training of trustees are currently under review and existing trustees are already familiar with the practical work of the charity.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Organisational Structure

The trustees take decisions collectively. Decisions are either taken at a trustee meeting when at least two trustees or one-third of the total (whichever be the greater) must be present, or by the trustees discussing a decision by more informal means and indicating to each other they are in unanimous agreement.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

At a trustee meeting decisions must be agreed by a majority of trustees, with whoever may be elected by the trustees to chair the meeting having a casting vote.

Risk management

Major risks, to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the trustees, have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks. The charity has one principal source of donations, from Lord Saatchi. However this risk is mitigated by the charity having significant resources.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The trustees have set out their purposes and aims on page 2, and have listed activities carried out to further those aims. The trustees also consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in assessing the activities carried out.

The trustees also review the financial performance of the charity. In the current year the charity gained net income of £199,758 (2024 - net income of £97,862). The income of the charity was £326,000 (2024 - £258,065) and the expenditure since the year end decreased to £126,242 (2024 - £160,203) as slightly fewer events were held. The trustees consider this satisfactory they have sufficient funds to continue their planned programme for the foreseeable future.

GOING CONCERN

The charity had £344,183 of cash as at 31 December 2025 and it had £126,242 of expenditure in the year ended 31 December 2025. The trustees expect the expenditure in the next twelve months to be of a level similar to pre-pandemic levels. The expenditure in the year ended 31 December 2019, which was before the pandemic was £168,443. Although coronavirus was declared a global pandemic which disrupted the activities of the charity, poetry events were able to continue on line. Lord Saatchi donated £250,000 in April 2024 and £250,000 in February 2025. Therefore after making enquiries, the trustees consider they have good reason to believe the charity will be able to continue in operation and to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least the next twelve months as income is expected to increase.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Our plans for the future are:

- Continue our long-standing partnership with The British Library, staging live events at the Library and at other locations. Our first event of 2026, The Poetry of W.H. Auden, took place at the British Library on 26 February 2026, and The Poetry of the First World War is planned for the British Library on 12 November 2026.
- Continue our collaboration with the Royal Academy of Music, building on the evening of poetry and music staged at Apsley House in November 2025.
- Deepen our relationship with The Queen's Reading Room, following our appearance at their festival at Chatsworth House in September 2025.
- Expand our educational work, running poetry performance competitions in the primary schools of the David Ross Education Trust and extending this to other multi-academy trusts.
- Continue to support RADA through scholarships and by sponsoring the 'Poetry Week' for first-year students.
- Research the possible uses of the digital archive in the classroom, potentially embedding our archive into the British Library's revamped learning websites.
- Continue to promote the work of the Foundation through our weekly Poem of the Week newsletter and over social media.

GRANT MAKING POLICY

The Charity makes grants to other charitable institutions for projects which further the aims and purposes of the Josephine Hart Poetry Foundation. There were grants of £27,500 made in the year ended 31 December 2025 (2024 - £15,000) (see note 10).

THE JOSEPHINE HART POETRY FOUNDATION
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TRUSTEES' REPORT

Approved by the Board of Trustees

TRUSTEES' REPORT

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The trustees (who are also directors of The Josephine Hart Poetry Foundation for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company 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 in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's accountant is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Approved by the Board of Trustees
and signed on behalf of the Board



Trustee Monique Henry

Date: 16.09.2026

128 City Road
London EC1V 2NX

THE JOSEPHINE HART POETRY FOUNDATION
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
For the Year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 Unrestricted £	2024 Unrestricted £
INCOME FROM:			
Donations	3	316,227	252,936
Investment income	4	9,773	5,129
TOTAL INCOME		326,000	258,065
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Charitable activities	5	(126,242)	(160,203)
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME FOR THE YEAR		199,758	97,862
Total funds brought forward		134,520	36,658
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		334,278	134,520

All income and expenditure derives from continuing operations.

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those listed above and the net expenditure for the year.

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BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS		383	670
CURRENT ASSETS			
Investments - cash on deposit		327,692	126,233
Cash at bank and in hand		16,492	17,349
Accounts receivable		189	-
		344,373	143,582
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	8	(10,478)	(9,732)
NET CURRENT ASSETS / TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES, BEING NET ASSETS		334,278	134,520
FUNDS			
Unrestricted income funds	9	334,278	134,520
TOTAL FUNDS		334,278	134,520

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

For the year ended 31 December 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Trustees' responsibilities:

- The trustees have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.
- The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts of The Josephine Hart Poetry Foundation, registered number 07867493, Charity number 1145062, were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on

On behalf of the Board

Trustee Monique Henry

16.09.2026

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year ended 31 December 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company and charitable status

The Josephine Hart Poetry Foundation, a public benefit entity, is incorporated in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.

There are currently 4 Trustees who are also the members of the company. Each member has undertaken to contribute to the assets in the event of winding up a sum not exceeding £1. The charity is a registered charity. The registered office is given on page 1.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The accounts comply with 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) (Charities SORP) the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity has taken advantage of the exemption available for small charities and has not produced a Cash Flow Statement. The principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently throughout the current financial year are set out below.

Donations and fund accounting

Donations received for the general purposes of the charity are included as unrestricted funds. Where donations are given subject to a restriction on the trustees to use them for a particular purpose, they are included as restricted funds.

The Charity uses certain services and facilities paid for by the trustees and other connected parties.

Value added tax

The charity is not VAT registered and so all VAT incurred on expenditure is a cost to the charity.

Taxation

No provision has been made for corporation tax or deferred tax as the charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation to the extent income and gains are applied to its charitable purposes.

Income

The charity has received donations which are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and can be reliably measured.

Investment income is recognised on an accruals basis.

Expenditure

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis. All costs have been directly attributed to one of the following functional categories of resources expended in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Charitable activities includes costs directly related to the running of events, grants payable, poetry app costs, governance costs and other related costs. Governance costs includes costs relating to the charity's compliance with regulatory and taxation responsibilities.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Going concern

The charity had £344,183 of cash as at 31 December 2025 and it had £126,242 of expenditure in the year ended 31 December 2025. The trustees expect the expenditure in the next twelve months to be of a level similar to pre-pandemic levels. The expenditure in the year ended 31 December 2019, which was before the pandemic was £168,443. Although coronavirus was declared a global pandemic which disrupted the activities of the charity, poetry events were able to continue online. Lord Saatchi donated £250,000 in April 2024 and £250,000 in February 2025. Therefore, after making enquiries, the trustees consider they have good reason to believe the charity will be able to continue in operation and to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least the next twelve months as income is expected to increase.

Investments

Investments are stated at fair value. The investments are comprised of cash on deposit.

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The Trustees do not consider there to be any critical judgements or sources of estimation uncertainty requiring disclosure beyond the accounting policies listed above.

3. DONATIONS

	2025 £	2024 £
From Lord Saatchi	250,369	251,564
Other	65,858	1,372
	316,227	252,936

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank interest receivable	9,773	5,129

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year ended 31 December 2025

5. EXPENDITURE

	Direct cost activities £	Support costs £	Total 2025 £	Direct cost activities £	Support costs £	Total 2024 £
Charitable activities:						
Poetry app costs	11,729	-	11,729	15,800	-	15,800
Poetry events	15,829	-	15,829	42,042	-	42,042
Staff costs (see note 7)	-	56,103	56,103	-	58,024	58,024
Governance costs (note 6)	-	9,887	9,887	-	14,927	14,927
Consultancy	-	-	-	-	10,290	10,290
Grants (note 10)	27,500	-	27,500	15,000	-	15,000
Sundry	-	5,194	5,194	-	4,120	4,120
	55,058	71,184	126,242	72,842	87,361	160,203

6. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Independent Examination fees	-	-
Independent Examiner's fees for other services (Accounting and taxation fees)	8,753	14,337
Legal fees	1,134	550
	9,887	14,927

7. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS

Staff costs includes wages and salaries £ 56,103 (2024 - £58,024)

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	3,478	2,732
Accruals	7,000	7,000
	10,478	9,732

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year ended 31 December 2025

9. UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 January	134,520	36,658
(Deficit)/income for the year	199,758	97,861
At 31 December	334,278	134,520

10. CHARITABLE GRANTS

The following grants are included for the year.

As at 31 December 2025 the charity was committed to make one £10,000 (2024 - £10,000) further grant payment to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts of £10,000 at one-yearly rolling intervals. The purpose of the grant was to fund the making of short films with a poetry theme. As at 31 December 2025 the charity was committed to make two £5,000 (2024 – £5,000) further grant payments to King George V fund of £5,000 at one-yearly intervals.

During the year grants were made to:

	2025 £	2024 £
King George V Fund	5,000	5,000
Great Scott Films funding poetry	12,500	-
RADA	10,000	10,000
	27,500	15,000

No grants were made to individuals.

11. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The company has no ultimate controlling party.

Lord M Saatchi (a trustee) made donations to the charity, as per note 3 and paid £nil (2024 - NIL) in respect of administration costs.

M Henry (a trustee) is employed by Lord Saatchi. During the year no salary costs relating to M Henry were recharged to the charity (2024 - £nil).

M Henry was paid £nil (2024 - NIL) in the year by Lord Saatchi for administration.

No trustees (2024 - none) were reimbursed travel expenses during the year ended 31 December 2025 (2024 - £nil).

12. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

None