REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07070372 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1149252

Report of the Trustees and

Unaudited Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

for

Marlborough Literature Festival

Monahans
Chartered Accountants
Hermes House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN2 2GA

Marlborough Literature Festival

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 2
Independent Examiner's Report	3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 to 11

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objectives of the company are to offer the public opportunities for the appreciation, enjoyment and understanding of Literature and the Arts including holding an annual literature festival.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. The trustees consider that they have acted in the public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The Charity held the 2025 Marlborough Literature Festival from 25 to 28 September. This included a full and diverse programme of ticketed events together with free author events for primary schools in Marlborough, Devizes, Pewsey and Calne, two events for St John's Academy in Marlborough, and free activities for families, with more than 1500 children and young people benefiting. Other outreach activities included supporting an author event in Erlestoke prison, and providing an author who both talked to, and sang with, attendees of the Jubilee Centre in Marlborough, a community centre for the over 60s.. Profit was generated thanks to increased income from ticket sales and a successful expansion of the Friends scheme to add higher levels of membership.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

It is the aim of the Trustees to have reserves of at least 50% of an annual festival's anticipated costs. At 31 December 2025, reserves were £74,482 which is in excess of this policy. The Trustees recognise their good fortune in having reserves and decided it was reasonable to continue using some of them if needed but also to enable plans for future festivals and outreach activities to take place. This included the retention of their PR and administration support.

FUTURE PLANS

In the Autumn, the committee began planning for a full festival in 2026 and to include an increased outreach programme although mindful that sponsorship money may be reduced.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Marlborough Literature Festival is a company limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act 2006. It was constituted as a company on 9 November 2009 and is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees are recruited from the local community and are appointed by the board of trustees.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

07070372 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1149252

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Registered office
Bridge House
High Street
Avebury
Marlborough
Wiltshire
SN8 1RF

Trustees
V B Reekie
G P Benest (resigned 8.1.25)
K A Fry
J P Stock
A Padfield
L H Spencely
M V Parr Chair of trustees
B A Turton (resigned 7.1.26)
J Tyler
K Crossfield (appointed 8.1.25)
J Pincott (appointed 8.1.25) (resigned 7.1.26)
D Watson (appointed 8.1.25)

Company Secretary
K Crossfield

Independent Examiner
James Gare
Monahans
Chartered Accountants
Hermes House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN2 2GA

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 1 July 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

M V Parr - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Marlborough Literature Festival

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Marlborough Literature Festival ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement
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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts 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 accounts 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 accounts to be reached.

James Gare

Monahans
Chartered Accountants
Hermes House
Fire Fly Avenue
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN2 2GA

22 July 2026

Marlborough Literature Festival

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	3	20,241	10,756
Charitable activities	6		
Festival		67,207	63,542
Other trading activities	4	1,179	790
Investment income	5	962	369
Total		89,589	75,457
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities	7		
Festival		81,472	69,616
NET INCOME		8,117	5,841
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		66,365	60,524
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		74,482	66,365

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet
31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank		82,382	68,239
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(7,900)	(1,874)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		74,482	66,365
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		74,482	66,365
NET ASSETS		74,482	66,365
FUNDS	14		
Unrestricted funds		74,482	66,365
TOTAL FUNDS		74,482	66,365

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 1 July 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

M V Parr - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Marlborough Literature Festival is a charitable company limited by guarantee, without share capital, incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office address, nature of the charity's operations and principal activities can be found in the Trustees' Report.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest pound.

There are no significant areas of judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Legal status of the Charity
The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on straight line basis

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Financial instruments
The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand
Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors and provisions
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations	20,241	10,756

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cafe/ bar sales	1,179	790

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deposit account interest	962	369

continued...

6. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2025	2024
		£	£
Sponsorship	Festival	16,980	16,875
Ticket sales	Festival	50,227	46,667
		67,207	63,542

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 8)	Support costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Festival	79,677	1,795	81,472

8. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Insurance	967	998
Brochure printing and postage	2,733	3,497
Marketing and photography	6,283	7,133
Speaker fees	20,499	16,283
Speaker travel and accommodation and other expenses	5,914	4,163
Room hire and PA systems	15,683	11,739
Sundries	1,323	652
Website and email costs	694	138
Front of house entertaining	1,261	1,737
Printing and advertising	4,615	2,842
Design services	3,120	2,533
Admin support	10,688	10,216
Outreach events	5,582	3,391
Love Books competition costs	-	1,200
Launch events	172	1,354
Ticket and box office costs	143	-
	79,677	67,876

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent examination	1,795	1,740

continued...

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2025 nor for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2025 nor for the year ended 31 December 2024.

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	
Donations and legacies	10,756
Charitable activities	
Festival	63,542
Other trading activities	790
Investment income	369
Total	75,457
EXPENDITURE ON	
Charitable activities	
Festival	69,616
NET INCOME	5,841
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	
Total funds brought forward	60,524
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	66,365

continued...

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £
COST	
At 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025	1,133
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025	1,133
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2025	-
At 31 December 2024	-

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals and deferred income	7,900	1,874

Included in accruals and deferred income is £6,000 of deferred income which relates to donations received in advance of the 2026 festival.

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.25 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.25 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	66,365	8,117	74,482
TOTAL FUNDS	66,365	8,117	74,482

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	89,589	(81,472)	8,117
TOTAL FUNDS	89,589	(81,472)	8,117

continued...

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	60,524	5,841	66,365
TOTAL FUNDS	60,524	5,841	66,365

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	75,457	(69,616)	5,841
TOTAL FUNDS	75,457	(69,616)	5,841

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2025.

This document was delivered using electronic communications and authenticated in accordance with the registrar's rules relating to electronic form, authentication and manner of delivery under section 1072 of the Companies Act 2006.