THE CHILDREN'S BOOKSHOW LIMITED

ACCOUNTS for the

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2026

Charity No. 1,162,410

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

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THE CHILDREN'S BOOKSHOW LIMITED

GENERAL INFORMATION

TRUSTEES	Mrs Katherine J Arafa Ms Claire Boulton Ms Sarah Daniels Mr Errol Lloyd Ms Sinead Naidoo Ms Robina Pelham Burn Ms Shoshannah Thompson Ms M Siân Williams
REGISTERED OFFICE	9a Peploe Road London NW6 6EB
CHARITY NO.	1,162,410
COMPANY NO.	8,120,254 (England and Wales)
ACCOUNTANTS	John D Kilby & Co Chartered Accountants Mutfords Hare Street Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 0ED
BANKERS	Co-Operative Bank plc Business Direct PO Box 250 Skelmersdale WN8 6WT

THE CHILDREN'S BOOKSHOW LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees (who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act) present their report, together with the unaudited accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2026. The trustees confirm that the annual report and accounts of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document and the provisions of the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) and Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Objectives and activities

The Children's Bookshow gives primary school children the benefits of reading and the joy of books. We do this by bringing thousands of children to their local theatre, library or their classroom's big screen, to experience some of the best illustrators, authors, poets and storytellers from around the world performing their work and talking about how they create their books.

Evidence shows that children who engage in an author visit are more likely to enjoy reading and those who own books and read for pleasure do better at school, have higher levels of mental wellbeing, and are more confident to support their own children's learning in the future. Yet, research by the National Literacy Trust in 2024 finds that children's reading enjoyment has fallen to its lowest level in two decades and only one in three children say that they enjoy reading in their free time.

At The Children's Bookshow we are working hard to address this decline by bringing the joy of reading to thousands of primary school children each year. Children and their teachers come to our programme of live theatre performances and experience some of the best authors and illustrators from around the world performing their work and talking about how they create their books.

Following the performances, every child attending the theatre receives a free copy of the artist's book to take home and keep, and a targeted cohort of children participate in free, artist-led workshops in their own schools.

We select the best authors, illustrators and poets from the UK and around the world. We introduce international artists, whom we bring from countries ranging from Japan and the US to Europe, to our audience of children and their teachers. Celebrating international literature, including in translation, and the work of artists of colour is at the heart of what we do.

From our inception in 2003, we have built partnerships with major theatres throughout England. We are the only national children's literature organisation touring work to large scale venues. We are based in London but 92% of our work in 2025/26 took place outside the capital. Our team of place-based freelancers is located across the country, with the majority in regions outside London ranging from Sheffield to Devon.

Risk Management

The Trustees have assessed potential risks to the charity and taken action to put into place systems to mitigate those risks. Over the year the trustees will be reviewing and revising its policies regarding business risks, financial risks, health and safety risks and other identifiable risks.

Trustees

The Trustees are responsible for the overall management and control of the The Children's Bookshow. All Trustees give their time freely and no remuneration was paid in the year. The trustees who held office during the year to 31st March 2026 and up to the date of this report were;

Mrs Katherine J Arafa
Ms Claire Boulton
Ms Sarah Daniels – appointed 19/03/26
Mr Errol Lloyd
Ms Sinead Naidoo
Ms Robina Pelham Burn
Mr David Potter – resigned 21/07/25
Ms Shoshannah Thompson
Ms M Siân Williams

Achievements and performance

National Autumn Tour 2025:

Venue	Artist	Date
Blackpool Grand	Katherine Rundell	Friday 19th September
Wolverhampton Grand	Matt de la Pena and Christian Robinson	Monday 29th September
The Belgrade theatre, Coventry	Michael Rosen	Monday 6th October
Bristol Old Vic	Matt Goodfellow	Wednesday 8th October
Hull New Theatre	Owen Sheers and Helen Stephens	Tuesday 14th October
The Stables, Buckinghamshire	Mariesa Dulak and Rebecca Cobb	Monday 20th October
London Southbank Centre	Frank Cottrell-Boyce	Wednesday 22nd October
Newcastle Theatre Royal	Catherine Rayner	Monday 3rd November
Portsmouth New Theatre Royal	Yasmeen Ismail	Wednesday 5th November
New Wolsey, Ipswich	Catherine Johnson	Thursday 6th November
Northcott, Exeter	Alom Shaha	Tuesday 11th November
Peterborough New Theatre	SF Said	Monday 17th November

Our national tour succeeded in creating a buzz about books and reading for Primary school children across the country. Katherine Rundell captured the imaginations of 1000 children and their teachers in Blackpool with tales of her life as a writer, where her ideas come from, and how she researches her novels meticulously; the entire audience shuddered at her story of eating tinned tarantula!

We were so privileged to host Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson who came all the way from the West Coast of America to give a generous and inspirational performance at The Grand in Wolverhampton. They talked to children about the importance and value of telling their own authentic stories without being afraid of making mistakes.

New artists for The Children's Bookshow, Mariesa Dulak and Rebecca Cobb, delighted children at The Stables in Buckinghamshire with an interactive reading of their picture book *There's a Tiger on The Train* which brought children onto the stage to dress up as the characters, and had children and teachers (as well as our Team) dancing in the aisles!

Alom Shaha used his book *How to Find a Rainbow* to talk to children about science, light and literature followed by showing the children some truly jaw dropping science experiments that thrilled and delighted everyone in the audience. These are just a few highlights from a diverse and inspirational tour.

Achievements in 2025 - 26

- Delivered a national tour to 12 theatres across the country - 75% of the tour took place in areas of high deprivation
- We reached a total audience of 8569 children and their teachers
- 7542 children received a free copy of the author's book to take home and keep
- 1651 children participated in a free, creative, author-led workshop in their school
- Of those schools that received a free workshop 75% had above average levels of children receiving Pupil Premium
- 100% of teachers who responded to our evaluation in 2025 said that the creative workshops increased children's confidence in working creatively.

Thanks to funding from Unwin Trust and Old Possum's Practical Trust we were able to give every child in our audiences a free book again this year. Handing a book out to every child is a marvellous experience for our Bookshow authors and team; a moment to see the benefit of our hard work and feel the delight of the children participating. The National Literacy Trust found that book ownership relates directly to children's ability to read and reported enjoyment of reading. By giving every child a book, we open the possibility of children sharing the book with their family, helping to instil a culture of reading at home.

Feedback from teachers reveals that The Children's Bookshow tour delivered transformative experiences through three primary areas of impact:

Enthusiasm for reading

Attending engaging in-theatre events sparks enthusiasm for reading among pupils across the board. Teachers consistently reported increased engagement with books and reading as a result of attending a tour event, with many pupils expressing excitement about meeting the artists, and getting repeated value from their free books.

"We have had Parents Evening tonight and the closing comment from one parent was how her child, who has never been a reader and does struggle academically, has not put the book down for the last 24 hours! He is so excited to read it and was thrilled to tell her he has reached chapter 5 - he is now urging her to read it after him! Please could you pass this onto S.F Said and thank him for igniting this passion in him. His parents, and we as his teachers, are thrilled." Teacher, Peterborough

Creative expression and confidence

Working directly with authors in schools has the power to transform pupils' approach to creative writing and artistic expression. Many teachers reported that children who normally hesitate to participate found their voice in our author workshops, gaining more confidence in their creative abilities.

"The children were incredibly inspired by the workshop and many continued writing afterwards at home to work on their ideas. Having Catherine in the classroom and working with the children had a great impact on their engagement and excitement around writing and I, and the school, are very grateful." Teacher, Ipswich 2025

"It made them feel so important to have Frank visit the school and he was wonderful at listening to them and helping them generate story ideas." Teacher, London 2025

Meaningful cultural experience

For many students, attending a Children's Bookshow event represents a significant cultural first – from visiting a theatre to meeting a professional author. Teachers valued the diversity of the cultural connections represented by our authors, and the opportunity to create inclusive learning experiences.

"Matt Goodfellow was extremely entertaining and engaging. We have had author visits in school before but the children found this really exciting to be in a setting outside of school (I'm not sure if all of them had been to a theatre before!) and to see an author on stage was really special." Teacher, Bristol 2025

"Matt was not only entertaining but really thought-provoking too. Lots of our children resonated with what he was saying about being ADHD and his family being separated. They enjoyed looking at poetry through the lens of lyrics in an almost rap-like manner and it was great to see as many of the boys engaged by this as the girls." Teacher Bristol 2025

We offer a free creative workshop after the theatre performance to four schools who have attended the performance. Our budget doesn't allow us to deliver more of these sessions and so there is an inevitable difficulty with not being able to offer these sessions to all children. Our workshops in schools are for a class of 30 children and this also poses a problem for schools with two or three form entry. This year we tried an online workshop with author and illustrator Catherine Rayner in Newcastle. This was open to all schools that attended the performance. It was a success and something that we will look to replicate next year.

"Our children really enjoyed the digital workshop. It was a great addition to the book show which we attended the previous week. Children were eager to engage with Catherine and enjoyed drawing their own bears following her instructions. The session enhanced previous experiences and kept the momentum going."

To promote our autumn programme and gain some momentum and excitement about our work, we decided to do an online launch event with Michael Rosen in May 2025. Members of the Bookshow team delivered a talk about how participating in the Children's Bookshow could have an impact on children's love of reading. We talked about the coming tour and the diverse and exciting author events we had on offer and encouraged teachers to join us and book seats at the theatre shows. This was followed by a talk on how to create a culture of reading at school by Michael Rosen. It was a successful event and we had a surge of bookings in the immediate aftermath. However, as we are a touring organisation and not located in one particular place, we had teachers attending to listen to Michael who were then nowhere near one of our performances. Future launches need to be more specifically tailored to the places to which we tour rather than offering an overview of our whole programme.

Competition and resources

Our national competition celebrated and promoted the picture book *There's a Tiger on the Train* by Mariesa Dulak, illustrated by Rebecca Cobb. Children were asked to draw and write about a tiger. The competition was judged by Rebecca Cobb and the winner won £200 worth of books for her school and a trip to London to meet Mariesa Dulak at the British Library. The British Library kindly offered free tickets to their Fairytale Exhibition for the winner and her family who were delighted with this opportunity!

We continued to design and create a range of resources linked to the books on our tour, offering teachers a way of deepening the experience of attending our theatre performances by engaging their pupils with creative activities in class after the show. The resources are available to download from our website.

Spring Programme 2026

Digital performances:

To celebrate World Book Day in March 2026 we programmed two free, live digital performances for schools across the country. The aim was to provide a large number of schools with a free, engaging and interactive author event on one of the most popular days in the school calendar.

With constricted budgets it is difficult for schools to provide children with the experience of working with an author to celebrate books on World Book Day. Our offer gives access to all primary aged children to participate in a high quality, interactive, free event to celebrate books and reading.

For Key Stage One children we programmed a performance with award winning author and illustrator Marta Altes. Marta read children her story *Little Monkeys* and talked about how she came up with the story and the pictures. Then they took part in a draw-a-long with Marta creating their own little monkeys! There was time for questions and then a reading of her new book *Big Tiger* which isn't due to be published until July 2026. The children attending our performance were the first children in the world to see this new book and they loved it!

Unfortunately, this performance was beset with technical problems beyond the control of The Children's Bookshow. The platform we use to deliver the performance crashed just moments before we went live and we were not able to get back into it for two hours. Thanks to Marta's generosity and the understanding of schools who had signed up, we were able to deliver the performance the following morning. This was a great shame and definitely impacted on audience numbers. 264 schools registered and 50 schools watched the performance live. Our teacher evaluation showed that 30–250 children watched per login, so we can confidently say that this online performance reached more than 18,180 children. 100% of teachers who filled in our feedback form said that the event helped to create a buzz about books and reading on World Book Day.

"A lovely addition to our World Book Day celebrations"
"The draw-along made this event stand out and the children were very proud of their work."

With technical difficulties overcome, we delivered an inspirational performance with US poet and educator Kwame Alexander for Key Stage Two. Kwame was interviewed about his life and work by a member of the Bookshow Team. The conversation ranged from Kwame's favourite children's books, to the secret of his success, to basketball and why reading is so important. Here is a flavour of the conversation:

Why poetry?
Kwame: "*I like how poetry lets you talk about really heavy things in just a few words. I like the rhythm. I like how you can make someone feel something immediately with just three lines, and I love the white space on the page."*

167 schools registered and 150 schools watched the performance live. Our teacher evaluation showed that 30–250 children watched per login, so we can confidently say that this online performance reached more than 14,160 children.

"The choice of author was absolutely fantastic! Kwame had my whole class entertained and excited about reading and writing, especially those who tend to be more reluctant. It was inspiring for them to see someone they deem 'cool' doing something they didn't think they were capable of themselves."

Spring programme in libraries:

We worked in partnership with the Devon Wildlife Trust and their Saving Devon's Treescape team and Torquay Library Service. Torquay is an area that has high deprivation and low levels of cultural engagement. We programmed and delivered an exciting programme of story-telling, creativity and conservation to Year 3 children. The project was designed to get children fired up about trees and conservation in their local area. Neal Layton and a representative from Devon Wildlife Trust went into two local schools and spoke to children about the wonder of trees and the importance of looking after them. Neal shared his picture book *The Tree* and drew live for the children. Every child participating got a free copy of T*he Tree* to take home and keep.

Following this event Neal worked with each class and delivered a thoroughly engaging and fun creative collage session which saw each child collaging their own tree. All of the artwork was displayed in a mini exhibition curated by Neal Layton at Torquay library. Children were invited back to the library to see their work on display and hopefully borrow more books! Feedback from teachers shows the impact this project had:

"This was one of the best school visits we have had."
"They loved the link of their artwork to the book and enjoyed working with someone who creates books."

We ran a similar project in Barnsley. Like Torquay, Barnsley is an Arts Council Priority Place with low levels of cultural engagement and high levels of poverty. Author and illustrator Helen Stephens delighted four classes of children at The Roundhouse library with stories and drawings of her naughty dog Peggy. Every child in the audience got a free copy of her book *Smelly Peggy* to take home and keep. Following the library performances Helen visited each class and ran a creative workshop. Children were shown how to draw using ink and sticks that Helen collected with her dog Peggy from her local beach! The results were so effective and the children absolutely loved working with ink in this way. All the work went on display in the Roundhouse library and children were invited to come back with their families to see their pictures in this exhibition. When asked about the impact of this project a teacher responded:

"One child came in the very next day and had made her own 'Adventures of Peggy' book at home. Other children sent me pictures of them reading their own copy before bed that evening. We have continued talking about Helen and we are going to be making comic strips of what Peggy did next!"

Every single child was engaged and interested in the task they had been given. It was so lovely to have a real author to do this with and model examples. We talked a lot about not giving up/how resilience is important. They absolutely loved the sticks and ink.

"We have talked about Helen and her books, and the children have said they would like me to order more books written by her. We have kept referring back to our visit. Some children have drawn more pictures of Peggy in their break times."

Conclusion

It was a highly successful year for The Children's Bookshow. We delivered our programme of activities in 12 prestigious venues across the country and 2 libraries, as well as running a total of 56 creative workshops in schools. 43% of our programme took place in an Arts Council Priority Place, areas that have been identified as having low cultural investment and engagement. Three-quarters (75%) of the schools that received a free, creative workshop had above average levels of children receiving Pupil Premium. We are reaching children from areas of high deprivation with low levels of cultural activity on offer. We were delighted with the feedback from teachers confirming the impact that our work has on children in their classes. We are delivering our objectives:

- providing children and teachers with a rich experience of literature,
- increasing engagement and enjoyment of reading within the classroom and at home,
- introducing children to the creative process and building confidence in their own creative endeavours,
- putting free books directly into the hands of children helping to create a buzz about reading.

We look forward to the coming year!

Financial Review

Incoming resources were £218,825 (2025 - £213,711) and resources expended were £215,225 (2025 - £208,888). The surplus for the year was £3,600 (2025 – £4,823). No member of staff was paid more than £30,574 for the year covered by these accounts.

Principal income sources are NPO funding from the Arts Council England and contributions from publishers, cultural institutions and trusts, along with fundraising income from donations.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, having received funding until 2027. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the accounts.

Fundraising

As an Arts Council England National Portfolio organisation, we have core funding confirmed until 2027. This means that we can continue to bring the very best authors and illustrators to children and their teachers across the country.

With substantial funding from Unwin Charitable Trust towards the core costs of delivering our work, we have been able to raise the daily rates for our artists and our team as well as helping us to weather the rise in costs of touring including increased hotel and travel expenditure. This funding is in place until 2027 and The Children's Bookshow is so grateful for this continued support and recognition of the work that we do.

We are very grateful for the support that our authors and illustrators give to our charity. In December 2025 we ran a fundraising auction of artwork kindly donated by our illustrators. This raised £10,293 which will be put towards the cost of programming and delivering 56 creative workshops in schools in 2026 - 27. We were also grateful for the support that the publishers gave to The Children's Bookshow for the inclusion of their authors in our autumn tour.

Continued financial sustainability with modest year-on-year growth is crucial for us to fulfil our charitable objectives and aspirations for the future: to give more primary school children the invaluable experience of a live author event at a local theatre, provide more opportunities for children to work creatively with a world class artist in their own classroom, and increase book ownership by putting a free book into the hands of every child that attends one of our performances.

To do this we are working as a team with support from our Board to develop our fundraising strategy.

Future Plans

We will continue to:

- introduce children to world-class authors and illustrators through a programme of live theatre events and in-school workshops
- provide children and teachers with a rich experience of literature, that will help to inspire interest in reading and writing, increasing engagement and enjoyment of reading both within the classroom and at home
- introduce children to the creative process and to build confidence in their own creative endeavours
- give children the experience of seeing an artist talk about their book and work live on stage, as well as the opportunity to visit a theatre
- get free books into the hands of children and to create a buzz about reading

We aim to bring our work to areas of high deprivation and where there is a low level of cultural activity on offer, widening the opportunity for children to experience cultural excellence in their local area. By touring to areas where audiences are underserved, we will widen access to our programme.

In 2026-27 we aim to:

- reach a total audience of 7,500 children and their teachers across 14 venues
- achieve 90% capacity audiences across all venues
- 50% of our programme will celebrate the work of international artists and artists of colour
- 29% of our autumn programme will occur in Priority/Levelling up for Culture Places.
- 65% of schools that receive a free author workshop will have above average levels (25%) of children receiving Pupil Premium.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees aim to maintain at least a minimum level of reserves as recommended by the Charity Commission, and to keep sufficient restricted funds to see these funded projects to their conclusion.

	2026	2025
Unrestricted funds	£ 15,901	£ 12,301
Restricted funds	-	-
	£ 15,901	£ 12,301

Structure, governance and management

The company is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated and constituted under Articles of Association, registered number 8,120,254. It is an English registered charity, number 1,162,410.

The management of the company is the responsibility of the trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Articles of Association. Additional trustees may be co-opted by the existing trustees as they deem advisable from time to time, then stand for election as required by the Articles of Association.

Reference and administrative details can be found on page 1 of the accounts.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners in the Charities Act 2011.

Approved by the Trustees on 25th June 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Katherine Arafa
Trustee

THE CHILDREN'S BOOKSHOW LIMITED

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT
EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Children's Bookshow Limited

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2026 which are set out on pages 13 to 18.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity 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 company'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 that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 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
- 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 FRS102).

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.

Mutfords
Hare Street
Buntingford
Hertfordshire
SG9 0ED

John D Kilby & Co
Chartered Accountants

25th June 2026

THE CHILDREN'S BOOKSHOW LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
incorporating the
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2026

	Note	unrestricted funds	restricted funds	2026	2025
INCOME					
Voluntary Income	2	£ 137,433	£ 30,316	£ 167,749	£ 168,931
Activities for generating funds	3	44,275	-	44,275	32,480
Investment Income		6,801	-	6,801	12,300
Total Incoming Resources		£ 188,509	£ 30,316	£ 218,825	£ 213,711
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable Activities	4	177,478	30,316	207,794	202,279
Governance Costs	5	7,431	-	7,431	6,609
Total Resources Expended		£ 184,909	£ 30,316	£ 215,225	£ 208,888
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources for the year		3,600	-	3,600	4,823
Funds Brought Forward		12,301	-	12,301	7,478
Funds Carried Forward		£ 15,901	£ -	£ 15,901	£ 12,301

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

THE CHILDREN'S BOOKSHOW LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET
31st MARCH 2026

	note		2026		2025
FIXED ASSETS			£ nil		£ nil
CURRENT ASSETS					
debtors	6	£ -		£ 6,809	
bank balance		215,141		296,904	
		215,141		303,713	
CREDITORS - amounts falling due within one year	7	84,140		96,312	
Net current assets			131,001		207,401
NET ASSETS less current liabilities			131,001		207,401
CREDITORS - amounts falling due after one year	8		115,100		195,100
NET ASSETS			£ 15,901		£ 12,301
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds	9		15,901		12,301
Restricted funds	10		-		-
			£ 15,901		£ 12,301

For the year ended 31st March 2026 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Trustees' Responsibilities:

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

Approved by the Trustees on 25th June 2026 and signed on its behalf:

Katherine Arafa
Trustee

THE CHILDREN'S BOOKSHOW LIMITED

Notes forming part of the accounts
for the year ended 31st March 2026

1. Accounting policies

a. Basis of preparation of accounts
These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost accounting rules and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015), UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 2011.

b. Income
Incoming resources are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is entitled to the income, and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy except for donations and investment income which are credited as income when received.

c. Resources expended
All expenditure is included in the accounts on an accruals' basis. The irrecoverable element of Value Added Tax is included with the item of expense to which it relates. Depreciation is allocated to expenditure headings based on the use of the assets concerned.

d. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation
The company did not own any fixed assets during the year.

e. Taxation
The charity is exempt from Corporation Tax on its charitable activities.

f. 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 a particular restricted purpose within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for a particular purpose.
Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

2. Voluntary Income

	unrestricted funds	restricted funds	2026	2025
Arts Council Grant	£ 69,413	£ -	£ 69,413	£ 68,313
Publishers Contributions	1,600	-	1,600	1,250
Unwin Trust	63,405	16,595	80,000	80,000
Charitable Grant	139	-	139	3,868
Old Possum's Practical Trust	1,279	13,721	15,000	15,000
Donations	1,597	-	1,597	500
	£ 137,433	£ 30,316	£ 167,749	£ 168,931

Notes forming part of the accounts
for the year ended 31st March 2026

		unrestricted funds	restricted funds	2026	2025
3.	Activities for Generating Funds				
	Venues	£ 35,030	£ -	£ 35,030	£ 32,440
	Digital Events	-	-	-	40
	Fundraising	9,245	-	9,245	-
		£ 44,275	£ -	£ 44,275	£ 32,480
4.	Cost of Charitable Activities				
	Artistic Expenditure				
	Writers fees - theatres	£ 6,500	£ 2,200	£ 8,700	£ 10,030
	Writers fees - schools	18,009	4,910	22,919	24,190
	Writers accommodation - theatre	2,525	-	2,525	2,542
	Writers travel - theatre	2,722	-	2,722	3,071
	Writers accommodation - schools	1,909	-	1,909	2,431
	Writers travel - schools	841	-	841	889
	Writers insurance	530	-	530	530
	Organisers travel and subsistence	4,615	-	4,615	4,214
	Organisers accommodation	3,777	-	3,777	3,320
	Live streaming services	-	-	-	-
	Administrative Expenditure				
	Co-organisers fees	68,587	-	68,587	71,082
	Admin and production fees	24,751	-	24,751	24,357
	Staff attending workshops	3,307	-	3,307	-
	Marketing				
	Sales and marketing	35,094	-	35,094	27,707
	Printing and distribution	1,713	-	1,713	1,519
	Electronic mailing	688	-	688	723
	Stationery	96	-	96	80
	Website maintenance	418	-	418	442
	Staff fundraising costs	1,107	-	1,107	-
	Workshop materials for schools	289	-	289	476
	Acquisition texts for schools	-	23,206	23,206	24,676
	Less school books for resale	-	-	-	(-)
		£ 177,478	£ 30,316	£ 207,794	£ 202,279

		unrestricted funds	restricted funds	2025	2025
5.	Governance Costs				
	Accountancy	£ 2,242	£ -	£ 2,242	£ 1,960
	Travel	582	-	582	313
	Postage	27	-	27	116
	Video streaming	417	-	417	388
	Meetings and subsistence	2,696	-	2,696	2,231
	Bank charges	83	-	83	184
	Carbon offsetting	200	-	200	200
	Competition costs	650	-	650	977
	General/contingency	534	-	534	240
		£ 7,431	£ -	£ 7,431	£ 6,609

6.	Debtors: amounts falling due within one year		
	Grants outstanding	£ -	£ -
	Other debtors	-	6,809
		£ -	£ 6,809
7.	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
	Creditors and accruals	£ 4,140	£ 16,312
	Income in advance	80,000	80,000
		£ 84,140	£ 96,312
8.	Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		
	Income in advance	£ 115,100	£ 195,100

9. Unrestricted Income Funds

The income funds of the charity, not including restricted funds, comprise of the following unexpended balances of donations and grants:

	Balance 1 Apr 25	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Balance 31 Mar 26
General Fund	£ 12,301	£ 188,509	£ 184,909	£ 15,901

10. Restricted Income Funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held in trust to be applied for specific purposes:

	Balance 1 Apr 25	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Balance 31 Mar 26
Unwin Trust	£ -	£ 16,595	£ 16,595	£ -
Old Possum	-	13,721	13,721	-
	£ -	£ 30,316	£ 30,316	£ -