Charity registration number 1165164 (England and Wales)

ELECTRIC UMBRELLA

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

ELECTRIC UMBRELLA

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Patron	Robert Voss CBE CStJ, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire
Trustees	Susan Clark (Chair) Lyle Aitken (Treasurer) Adina Collins Anjula Prabhakar Kate Holland-Hibbert Meena Hansen Paul Lewis Sheridan Lewis Simon Putman Toby Sutherland
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Mel Boda
Artistic Director	Tom Billington
Charity number	1165164
Principal address	7 Queens Road Watford Hertfordshire WD17 2LH
Independent examiner	Gary Howard FCA Howard Wilson Chartered Accountants 36 Crown Rise Watford Hertfordshire WD25 0NE

ELECTRIC UMBRELLA

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ELECTRIC UMBRELLA

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

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 Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) constitution, the Charities Act 2011 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) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and Activities

Electric Umbrella harnesses the power of music to support inclusion, creativity and participation for learning disabled people. The charity places learning disabled people at the centre of creative activity, performance and leadership, delivering high-quality, accessible music programmes that support social connection, challenge stereotypes and promote inclusion.

Many learning disabled people experience barriers to participation in society, including social isolation and limited access to creative opportunities. Electric Umbrella addresses this through structured musical programmes that support creative, social and personal development.

During the year, Electric Umbrella continued to build on its strong foundations in Watford and Hertfordshire, while significantly increasing its national reach and visibility. The charity experienced increased demand following wider public exposure, including national recognition through Britain's Got Talent.

The charity works across adulthood, childhood and education, supporting learning disabled adults through its membership community while reaching children and young people through schools and education programmes across the UK.

The trustees remain committed to the charity’s core purpose of promoting social inclusion through music and creative participation.

Charitable Objects

Electric Umbrella’s objects are to promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people with learning disabilities from becoming socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society, in particular through music and performance.

Members

Electric Umbrella continues to make a significant difference in the lives of its members, supporting wellbeing, confidence and belonging through regular music and performance opportunities.

The membership community is primarily made up of learning disabled adults aged 18 and over, who take part in weekly music-making, rehearsals, performances and creative projects.

Alongside this, the charity delivers significant work with children and young people through schools and education settings across the UK, ensuring that inclusive practice is embedded early and reinforced through education.

Impact on Members

Electric Umbrella continues to have a consistently positive impact on its members across wellbeing, confidence and social connection.

Members report reduced isolation and describe Electric Umbrella as an inclusive and reliable space in their week where they are known, supported and able to express themselves creatively through music.

Mental Health and Wellbeing
Members describe improved wellbeing through regular participation, particularly through the structure of weekly sessions. Many value having a consistent creative space that supports emotional stability and routine.

Community and Belonging
Members consistently describe Electric Umbrella as a strong community that extends beyond sessions and locations. Relationships formed through sessions, performances, and shared creative experiences are central to this sense of belonging, particularly as the national membership continues to grow.

Confidence and Development
Participation supports communication, confidence and social development. Members often build skills gradually through rehearsals and performance opportunities, including working alongside professional musicians and taking part in large-scale events.

Creative Opportunity
Members benefit from high-quality opportunities to perform, collaborate and create original music. This includes writing, recording and performing songs on both local and national stages, as well as appearing at major venues and festivals. These experiences provide a level of access to professional music-making that is rarely available within the sector.

Engagement

Electric Umbrella delivers a wide programme of weekly activities supporting creativity, inclusion and wellbeing through music and performance.

Sessions include choir, music workshops, club nights, open mic events and online and hybrid opportunities that enable participation from across the UK.

Engagement remains consistently high, with approximately 80% of members attending multiple sessions each week. Many members engage across multiple formats, combining in-person and digital participation depending on access and location.

The charity's blended model enables local members in Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and North London to attend regular in-person sessions, while national members engage primarily online and join in-person experiences where possible, including residential visits and performances.

Across the year, Electric Umbrella delivered approximately 50 performances and events, ranging from community-based gigs to large-scale public appearances, including our annual Umbrellafest event. In September we held our annual Umbrellafest event in Watford where over 200 members performed to the community.



Highlights of the Year

This year included a series of significant artistic and national milestones.



Electric Umbrella began the year with major national visibility through its participation in Britain's Got Talent. The performance, which featured learning disabled members performing original music, received a Golden Buzzer from Simon Cowell and progressed to the semi-final stage of the competition. This moment highlighted the talent, creativity, and leadership of its members to a national audience.

The impact of the performance extended beyond the UK, inspiring responses from communities internationally, including a school choir in Illinois, USA. This demonstrated the wider cultural reach of the charity's work and the ability of inclusive creative practice to resonate across different contexts.

Electric Umbrella's participation in Britain's Got Talent was accompanied by an extraordinary level of support from the local community in Watford and surrounding areas. Throughout the broadcast period, the town visibly rallied behind the charity, with yellow-themed displays appearing across roundabouts, shopfronts and public spaces, alongside organised watch parties and widespread public signage. Support was also seen across civic and cultural sites, including Watford Town Hall and Warner Bros. Studios, as well as in surrounding villages, where residents placed bunting and voting messages in windows and public spaces. This collective response reflected the strength of connection between Electric Umbrella and its local community, and the extent to which members' participation was experienced as a shared moment of civic pride.

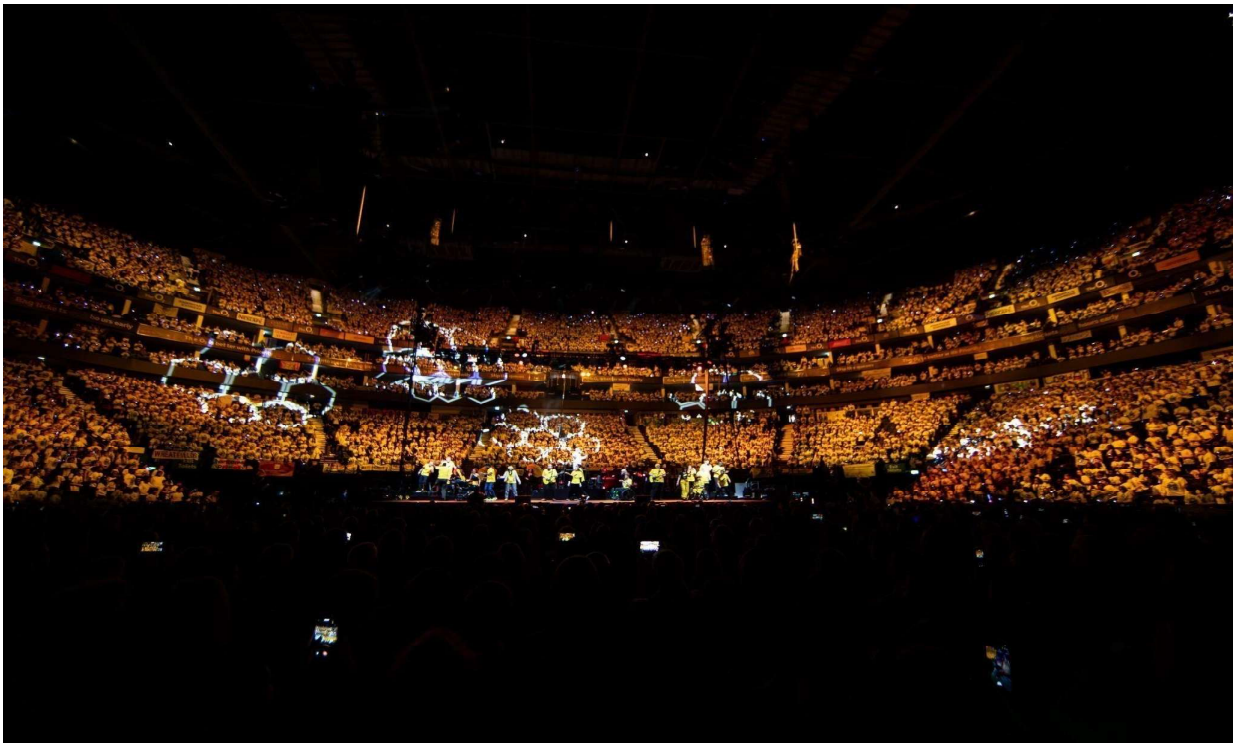
Electric Umbrella performed a full set at CarFest, with Danny Jones (McFly) joining members on stage for their final song. The charity also joined Madness on stage during the festival's closing set.

At Watford Colosseum, Electric Umbrella delivered three performances, including two school shows and a sold-out public event, with over 200 members performing.

The “Shine a Light” project at St Albans Cathedral brought together 40 mainstream and SEND schools in a large-scale shared performance.



At The O2 Arena, the charity participated in the Young Voices arena tour, where its song *No Such Thing as Normal* was sung by thousands of children across a national tour reaching approximately 200,000 children.



In October, Electric Umbrella released *It's Not a Crime to Be Different* in partnership with Hertfordshire Constabulary for National Hate Crime Awareness Week. The campaign reached an estimated 6.1 million people and included performances outside 10 Downing Street and engagement with Parliament.



In January 2026, Electric Umbrella members performed their new song *Tikkun Olam (Repair The World)* at the National Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony in London.



The performance marked one of the most significant events the charity has contributed to. The song, inspired by the Hebrew concept of "repairing the world", reflects Electric Umbrella's values of inclusion, belonging, and shared responsibility, and aligns with the aims of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust in promoting understanding and a more compassionate society.

The charity was introduced to the opportunity through its Patron, the Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Robert Voss CBE CStJ. Members performed in the presence of Cabinet members, faith leaders, civic representatives and invited guests. The performance was widely received as a powerful and positive contribution to the ceremony, with many attendees commenting on the sense of hope and humanity it brought to the event.

Education

Between April 2025 and March 2026, Electric Umbrella reached over 100,000 children and teachers across mainstream and SEND settings through school visits, workshops, performances and digital engagement.

This included over 200 school visits and engagement with more than 500 classrooms through the Music Machine broadcast, enabling whole classes to participate in shared musical experiences regardless of location.

Sessions focus on active participation through singing, movement, rhythm and storytelling, allowing children to explore themes of acceptance, kindness and difference in an accessible and engaging way.

A key development was the launch of the Electric Umbrella Academy in September 2025, enabling schools nationally to access structured programmes that support inclusive practice through music. Schools work towards Bronze Accreditation, recognising participation and commitment to inclusion, with pathways in place for Silver and Gold accreditation through sustained engagement.

Electric Umbrella's reach continues to extend through national partners and large-scale educational platforms.

This year, Young Voices, the world's largest children's choir, included Electric Umbrella's song *No Such Thing As Normal* in its national repertoire. The song was performed by approximately 200,000 children across stadium concerts in Sheffield, Manchester, Birmingham and London, reaching an estimated audience of over 600,000 people.

This represents a significant milestone in embedding the charity's work within mainstream school music provision at scale.

Flagship Education Projects

No Such Thing as Normal Day

A national online assembly and day to celebrate being who you are, promoting inclusion through music and participation.

Shine a Light Project

We held our inaugural Shine a Light event at St Albans Cathedral in June 2025 - a major event bringing together 40 mainstream and SEND schools to sing as one choir. The scale and impact of this project was enormous, teachers and children had been using our specially created music resources for months in preparation, and coming together was a true celebration of inclusion, unity, and creativity. We have now planned a second Shine a Light event at St Albans Cathedral on 7th July 2026 with the intensive work in the 40 mainstream and SEND schools starting in April 2026. Importantly, all of this is completely free for schools to take part in. We believe inclusive arts education should be accessible to everyone, regardless of background or ability.

Youth Music Partnership Project

Delivered with partner schools and colleges, supporting young people with SEND through collaborative songwriting, performance and accredited progression pathways.

Original Music and Campaigns

In partnership with Hertfordshire Constabulary, Electric Umbrella co-created and released *It's Not a Crime to Be Different* following a lived experience of hate crime. The campaign combined education, performance and digital engagement, reaching millions and embedding inclusive messaging in schools.

Member Programme
Electric Umbrella delivers structured programmes supporting musical, creative, and social development.

Face-to-Face (paid):
- Face the Music
- Feel the Music
- Big Yellow Choir
- Crew Days

Online (paid):
- Cyber Sessions
- Big Yellow Choir

Face-to-Face (free):
- Open Mic Night

Online (free):
- EUTV
- Singalong
- Online Open Mic Night

Community: Visibility, Influence and Societal Change

Electric Umbrella uses music, campaigns, and digital platforms to increase the visibility of learning disabled people and to challenge perceptions of disability in society. Through performances, creative content, and national campaigns, the charity ensures that its members are seen, heard, and valued as artists and contributors.

Digital engagement continues to play a key role in extending the charity's reach nationally.

Electric Umbrella experienced significant digital growth during the year, reflecting the increasing visibility and reach of its work. Facebook follower growth increased by 957%, while Instagram profile visits rose by 821%. Content consistently reached high proportions of non-followers, particularly through video-led campaign activity.

YouTube delivered 1.2 million impressions and 138,000 views over the year, while website traffic increased significantly during key campaign periods.

The campaign *It's Not a Crime to Be Different* achieved the strongest digital performance to date, significantly contributing to reach and engagement across platforms.

Britain's Got Talent – Visibility and Impact

Electric Umbrella's participation in Britain's Got Talent generated significant national visibility for the charity and its members.

The performance reached millions of viewers and produced immediate digital engagement, including increased social media activity, higher video views, and a surge in website traffic during and after broadcast periods.

Key outcomes of this visibility included:
- Significant national audience reach across broadcast and digital platforms
- Rapid increase in social media engagement and followers
- High levels of video views and online sharing
- Increased public awareness of Electric Umbrella's mission and members

This experience highlighted an important learning for the organisation. While national broadcast exposure can create rapid increases in visibility, sustained engagement is more effectively achieved through structured campaigns and ongoing digital activity. This insight is shaping the development of the charity's future communications approach.

Community Engagement and Public Presence

Alongside digital growth, Electric Umbrella continued to deliver public-facing performances and community events that strengthened local and national engagement. These moments remain central to the charity's mission, ensuring that learning disabled people are visible within cultural and civic spaces, and that inclusion is experienced in practice as well as promoted through messaging.

Supporters and Partnerships

Electric Umbrella is supported by a wide network of partners committed to inclusion.

The charity benefits from free premises in Hemel Hempstead at The Marlowes Shopping Centre and business rates relief from Dacorum Borough Council.

Key corporate partners include Barratt Homes, Welcome Break, and Warner Bros, alongside individual donors and local supporters.

The charity continues to work with schools, local authorities, and community organisations, and is honoured to have the Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire as Patron.

Staff, Volunteers and Safeguarding

Electric Umbrella employs 22 staff supported by freelancers and volunteers across delivery, education, and operations.

Volunteers contribute to fundraising, safeguarding support, and programme delivery.

Safeguarding remains a core priority. All staff and volunteers receive mandatory training, and policies are regularly reviewed to ensure safe and inclusive practice.

Public Benefit

The trustees have had due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on public benefit.

Electric Umbrella reduces social isolation and supports participation in society, while promoting understanding and acceptance within the wider community.

The charity benefits children, young people and learning disabled adults through music and creative programmes. Wider public benefit is achieved through education and engagement work that challenges perceptions and promotes more inclusive communities.

Fundraising Achievements

Electric Umbrella is grateful for the generosity of individuals, families, and community groups who raised an incredible **£117,320** during the year.

Charity partnerships, corporate events, and gigs generated **£98,147**, with key contributors including **Barratt Homes, Allwyn UK, Welcome Break, Warner Bros and Mad Squirrel**. We also received essential in-kind support from **White Productions, Armer Light & Sound, AR18** and the **Marlowes Shopping Centre**.

Grants totalling **£360,024** were awarded, of which £174,524 were restricted and £185,500 unrestricted. Grant funders included:

Hertfordshire Community Foundation, National Lottery Grant, Garfield Weston Foundation, AD Charitable Trust, The Barratt Foundation, The Seneca Trust, The Rix Thompson Rothenberg Foundation, The Shanly Foundation, Watford Mayor's Small Grant, St James Place Foundation, Dacorum Borough Council, The White Stuff Foundation, JD Sports Foundation, Betty Messenger Charitable Foundation and The National Foundation for Youth Music.

These funds have been instrumental in sustaining and expanding **Electric Umbrella's inclusive music and performance programmes**, reaching more members, children, and communities across the UK.

Financial Review

Income
Total income for the year was £996,100, an increase of £223,450 from the previous period (2025: £772,650). The increase year on year is predominantly due to success and support from Grants, Corporate Partnerships and Fundraising income.

In 2026 income was split as follows:

- member activities income (34% of total income) increased by £28,755
- donations, fundraising and corporate income (21% of total income) increased by £46,260
- grant income (36% of total income) increased by £140,876
- other income (9% of total income) (gigs and schools) increased by £7,559

Of the grant income, £174,524 was restricted (2025: £127,148).

Expenditure
Total expenditure for the year was £940,293, an increase of £260,889 on the previous period (2025: £679,404). Of that expenditure, £174,524 was paid out of restricted grants received in the year. The increase year on year is related to delivery costs of our local and national member & education programmes.

Our biggest cost is our staff. We started the year with 19 members of staff on the payroll (1 full time and 18 part time) and ended the year with 21 members of staff (2 full time and 19 part time). Our membership has continued to grow during the year and the additional staff recruited in the year reflect this trend.

Reserves
At the year end the charity carried forward a balance of £391,275 on unrestricted funds (2025: £335,468) and £0 on restricted funds (2025: £0), as well as a balance of £48,000 of deferred grant income (2025: £55,460). Total unrestricted funds are the equivalent of 4.5 months of running costs.

We delivered a surplus of £55,807 in the year.

As well as delivering ambitious delivery plans during the year and taking part in our largest performance to date at Britain's Got Talent, we have been able to continue to build reserves in line with our Reserves Policy.

Reserves policy
The Trustees have agreed a policy whereby funds not committed or restricted by the charity should be maintained at a level sufficient to pay staff and running costs for a minimum of three months and up to six months. Our current reserves level meets this minimum threshold; on 31st March 2026 we held 4.5 months of running costs in unrestricted reserves.

This policy allows for a reduction of income or lack of fundraising success during any particular year whilst allowing the charity to continue its activities at the current level for three months. The Trustees have carried out a risk profile on the income and expenditure streams which indicate we have successfully diversified income streams through crew days, corporate partnerships and seeking core costs grants. Electric Umbrella’s main committed expenditure is for staff and venue costs.

We strive to maintain an increasingly diverse stream of income to reduce risk of reliance on one or two sources.

Risk factors and review
The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. All sessions, crew days, and events are risk assessed, and we update all our policies and procedures on a rolling basis**. Safeguarding is a core focus of our risk management.** All activities involving members and children are conducted under strict safeguarding policies, with mandatory training for staff and volunteers, clear reporting procedures and oversight from a designated safeguarding lead. These measures ensure the safety and wellbeing of participants while minimising risk to the charity.

Final Summary

Electric Umbrella will continue to develop its work as a music-led charity creating opportunities for learning disabled people to participate, perform and be visible within society.

The past year has demonstrated both the growing reach of the charity and increasing demand across membership, education and public engagement. As the organisation continues to grow nationally, the trustees remain focused on ensuring that this growth is supported by strong delivery, sustainable infrastructure and a continued commitment to quality.

The trustees are confident that this balanced approach will support the long-term sustainability of the organisation and its continued positive impact.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document and how we are constituted
Electric Umbrella is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its foundation CIO constitution and registered with the Charity Commission on 14 January 2016.

Trustees
The trustees who served during the year up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Susan Clark (Chair)
Lyle Aitken (Treasurer)
Adina Collins
Anjula Prabhakar (appointed 16th April 2026)
Chris Luff (retired 16th April 2026)
David Carey (retired 10th November 2025)
Kate Holland-Hibbert
Meena Hansen
Paul Lewis (appointed 16th April 2026)
Sarah Thompson (retired November 2025)
Sheridan Lewis (appointed 26th February 2026)
Simon Putman
Suzanne Langridge (retired 15th April 2026)
Toby Sutherland (appointed 16th April 2026)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees
New Trustees are invited onto the Board by the existing Trustees, having been made aware of the aims and scope of the charity and of their duties and responsibilities as trustees. The Trustees reflect the needs of the charity and they offer a wide range of skills and experience.

Organisational structure
Day to day operations are delegated to the CEO, Melanie Boda who reports to the Trustees. The Trustees meet at least 4 times per year.

Induction and training of trustees
The Chair of the board of Trustees meets each new trustee to provide Trustee induction. New trustees undertake a rigorous interview process. The CEO provides a guided tour of all services, information on the history of the organisation and current operations.

The charity Trustees make available to each new charity Trustee, on or before his or her first appointment:

- a copy of the current version of our Constitution; and
- a copy of the CIO's latest Trustees' Annual Report and Statement of Accounts
- a copy of the Charity Commission's guide "The Essential Trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do" (CC3); and
- a copy of the Charity Commission's "Charity Trustee Welcome Pack"

The trustees have participated in the Better Boards training conducted by Hertfordshire Community Foundation.

Relationship with wider network
Electric Umbrella has excellent and numerous partnerships with other charitable organisations and musicians across the industry that we continue to grow and develop. These relationships are developed through collaboration on our albums and delivery of our online programmes. Key partners over the year have included Mencap, Hertfordshire Community Foundation, Watford Pump House Theatre, Watford Borough Council, Dacorum Borough Council, Marlowes Shopping Centre, Makaton, Trinity College London, and a wealth of both SEND and mainstream schools across the country.

Looking Forward

Electric Umbrella will continue to develop its work over the coming period across three core areas: Membership, Education, and Community.

These areas reflect the charity's ongoing commitment to supporting learning disabled people through music and creative participation, while extending inclusive practice through schools, families, and wider public engagement.

Membership
Electric Umbrella will continue to develop its membership programme for learning disabled adults, strengthening access to high-quality musical, creative, and performance opportunities. The charity will invest in staffing capacity and coordination roles to support both local and national delivery, ensuring consistency, accessibility, and quality as the programme grows.

This will enable more learning disabled people to participate regularly in creative activity, build confidence, and take part in high-quality performance opportunities across both local and national settings.

Education
Electric Umbrella will continue to expand its education work in mainstream and SEND settings across the UK, building on existing school partnerships and digital delivery. This will support more children and young people to engage with inclusive creative practice and develop understanding, empathy, and participation through music.

In September 2026, the charity will extend its education programme into secondary school settings. This development will build on established delivery in primary and SEND education and will enable older pupils to engage with inclusive music-making at a key stage of their development, further embedding themes of inclusion, participation, and understanding of difference.

Alongside this, Electric Umbrella will launch *Little Brollies*, its early years music programme and accompanying album in summer 2026. This follows a period of successful creative development with children in nursery and early years settings across mainstream and SEND provision, where original songs have been co-created through structured and inclusive music sessions.

Together, these developments will strengthen the charity's ability to support inclusive learning across early years, primary, and secondary education, creating a more continuous educational pathway for children and young people.

Community
Electric Umbrella will continue to develop its public-facing work, including performances, digital content, and campaigns, to support visibility for learning disabled people and increase wider engagement with the charity's work. This will include opportunities for members to perform in both community and high-profile settings, strengthening the connection between education, membership, and public audiences.

The charity will also continue to build on the strong connection between its work and local communities, alongside its growing national reach. Public engagement will remain a key part of the organisation's approach to inclusion, ensuring that learning disabled people are visible, valued, and represented in cultural and civic spaces.

Infrastructure and Sustainability
To support this development, Electric Umbrella will continue to invest in its team and infrastructure, including new and emerging roles within membership and programme coordination. This investment will support sustainable growth and ensure that the quality of the charity's work is maintained as demand increases.

The trustees recognise the importance of balancing growth with sustainability, ensuring that Electric Umbrella continues to deliver high-quality, inclusive programmes while remaining financially and operationally resilient.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Board of Trustees to extend huge thanks to the members, staff, volunteers, supporters, ambassadors, advisors, the wider Electric Umbrella community and our Patron, The Lord-Lieutenant Robert Voss CBE CStJ for all their support and hard work - without each of you Electric Umbrella would not be the success it is today.

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

susan clark

Susan Clark
Trustee

15 October 2026

ELECTRIC UMBRELLA

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

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 estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

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 estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ELECTRIC UMBRELLA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF ELECTRIC UMBRELLA

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Electric Umbrella (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

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.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn. I understand that this has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

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 130 of the Charities Act 2011.

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



Gary Howard FCA
Howard Wilson Chartered Accountants
36 Crown Rise
Watford
Hertfordshire
WD25 0NE
19 October 2026

ELECTRIC UMBRELLA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Restricted funds 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	**3**	400,967	-	400,967	261,207	-	261,207
Charitable activities	**4**	413,557	174,524	588,081	370,585	127,148	497,733
Investments	**5**	7,052	-	7,052	2,055	-	2,055
Other income	**6**	-	-	-	11,655	-	11,655
Total income		821,576	174,524	996,100	645,502	127,148	772,650
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	**7**	104,181	2,065	106,246	70,803	476	71,279
Charitable activities	**8**	661,588	172,459	834,047	487,569	120,556	608,125
Total expenditure		765,769	174,524	940,293	558,372	121,032	679,404
Net income		55,807	-	55,807	87,130	6,116	93,246
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	6,116	(6,116)	-
Net movement in funds	**9**	55,807	-	55,807	93,246	-	93,246
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2025		335,468	-	335,468	242,222	-	242,222
Fund balances at 31 March 2026		391,275	-	391,275	335,468	-	335,468

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

ELECTRIC UMBRELLA

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	2026 £	£	2025 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**13**		36,064		63,252
Current assets					
Stocks	**14**	-		824	
Debtors	**15**	72,727		26,922	
Cash at bank and in hand		381,258		330,962	
		453,985		358,708	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**16**	(98,774)		(86,492)	
Net current assets			355,211		272,216
Total assets less current liabilities			391,275		335,468
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	**20**		391,275		335,468
			391,275		335,468

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 15 October 2026

susan clark

Susan Clark
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Electric Umbrella is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's CIO constitution, the Charities Act 2011 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) (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 applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

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

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

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

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 Income

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. All other income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, otherwise the income is deferred until the performance conditions have been fulfilled. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

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	33% straight line
Motor vehicles	25% straight line

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.

The trustees have a policy not to capitalise individual asset purchases costing less than £1,000.

1.7 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).

1.8 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition. Items held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured the lower of replacement cost and cost.

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution.

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.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

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.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £
Donations and gifts	215,467	169,207
Grants	185,500	92,000
	400,967	261,207

3 Income from donations and legacies **(Continued)**

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £
Grants		
The Barratt Foundation	12,000	37,000
The Seneca Trust	50,000	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	30,000
Betty Messenger Charitable Foundation	50,000	-
The A. D. Charitable Trust	25,000	25,000
Institute of Cemetary and Crematorium Management	17,000	-
White Stuff Foundation	10,000	-
Big Give	7,500	-
Welldon Activity Group	6,000	-
J D Sports	5,000	-
Shanly Foundation	3,000	-
	185,500	92,000

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Restricted funds 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Charitable Activities						
Session and choir fees	338,035	-	338,035	309,281	-	309,281
Events and gigs	35,166	-	35,166	9,067	-	9,067
Education programme income	36,987	-	36,987	48,536	-	48,536
Grants income	-	174,524	174,524	-	127,148	127,148
Instruments and merchandise sales	3,369	-	3,369	3,701	-	3,701
	413,557	174,524	588,081	370,585	127,148	497,733

4 Income from charitable activities (Continued)

Performance related grants analysis

	Charitable Activities 2026 £	Charitable Activities 2025 £
The National Lottery Community Fund	14,960	9,990
Garfield Weston Foundation	50,000	15,000
Hertfordshire Community Foundation	39,111	59,812
Watford Mayor's Grant	1,500	-
Dacorum Borough Council	3,953	-
St James Place Foundation	10,000	-
The National Foundation for Youth Music	50,000	12,500
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	-	4,830
Boltini Trust	-	10,000
The Rix Thompson Rothenberg Foundation	5,000	-
Other	-	15,016
	174,524	127,148

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £
Interest receivable	7,052	2,055

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £
Net gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	11,655

7 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2026	Restricted funds 2026	Total 2026	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising and publicity				
Marketing and Website costs	100,015	2,065	102,080	65,223
Other fundraising costs	4,166	-	4,166	6,056
	104,181	2,065	106,246	71,279
For the year ended 31 March 2025				
Fundraising and publicity	70,803	476		71,279

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Charitable Activities 2026	Charitable Activities 2025
	£	£
Direct costs		
Staff costs	638,348	431,218
Depreciation and impairment	27,188	27,394
Session and choir costs	19,106	30,292
Event costs	68,178	39,672
Arena costs	17,920	16,686
Equipment purchases	19,366	19,588
Insurance	4,370	3,545
Travel	4,268	6,766
Office costs	10,585	4,632
Legal and professional costs	2,350	3,234
Other costs	1,702	1,007
Governance costs	1,100	850
Bank charges and other finance costs	2,682	2,618
Vehicle costs	16,884	20,623
	834,047	608,125
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	661,588	487,569
Restricted funds	172,459	120,556
	834,047	608,125

9 Net movement in funds

	2026	2025
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	900	800
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	27,188	27,394
Loss/(profit) on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	(11,655)

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:

	2026	2025
	Number	Number
Direct charitable work	22	16

Employment costs	2026	2025
	£	£
Wages and salaries	567,941	393,766
Social security costs	59,531	30,444
Other pension costs	10,876	7,008
	638,348	431,218

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2026	2025
	Number	Number
£60,001 - £70,000	2	1

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2026	2025
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	148,021	120,301

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	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2025	4,794	106,511	111,305
At 31 March 2026	4,794	106,511	111,305
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2025	4,234	43,819	48,053
Depreciation charged in the year	560	26,628	27,188
At 31 March 2026	4,794	70,447	75,241
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2026	-	36,064	36,064
At 31 March 2025	560	62,692	63,252

14 Stocks

	2026	2025
	£	£
Finished goods and goods for resale	-	824

15 Debtors

	2026	2025
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	8,212	6,818
Other debtors	-	93
Prepayments and accrued income	64,515	20,011
	72,727	26,922

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
Other taxation and social security		17,352	-
Deferred income	17	51,030	62,892
Other creditors		26,441	19,177
Accruals		3,951	4,423
		98,774	86,492

17 Deferred income

	2026 £	2025 £
Other deferred income	51,030	62,892

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2026 £	2025 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	51,030	62,892

	2026 £	2025 £
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 April 2025	62,892	57,960
Released from previous periods	(62,892)	(57,960)
Resources deferred in the year	51,030	62,892
Deferred income at 31 March 2026	51,030	62,892

18 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes	2026 £	2025 £
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	10,876	7,008

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

19 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 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
The Graham Rowlandson Foundation	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
The National Lottery/Awards for All	-	14,960	(14,960)	-	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
Youth Music	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
St James Place Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Dacorum Borough Council	-	3,953	(3,953)	-	-
Hertfordshire Community Foundation - Member Development Programme	-	14,111	(14,111)	-	-
Watford Mayor's Grant	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
The Rix Thompson Rothenberg Foundation	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
	-	174,524	(174,524)	-	-

19 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Previous year:	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
The Graham Rowlandson Foundation	-	25,500	(25,500)	-	-
The Boltini Trust	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
West Herts Charity Trust	-	6,116	-	(6,116)	-
The National Lottery/Awards for All	-	9,990	(9,990)	-	-
Watford & Three Rivers Trust	-	1,500	(1,500)	-	-
Youth Music	-	12,500	(12,500)	-	-
Seneca Trust	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Meeting Needs	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Hertfordshire Community Foundation - User Voice	-	6,000	(6,000)	-	-
Hertfordshire Community Foundation - Music Machine	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Hertfordshire Community Foundation - Quercus	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Hertfordshire Community Foundation - Member Development Programme	-	13,312	(13,312)	-	-
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	-	4,830	(4,830)	-	-
Other funds	-	2,400	(2,400)	-	-
	-	127,148	(121,032)	(6,116)	-

The Graham Rowlandson Foundation (via Hertfordshire Community Foundation) awarded us a grant towards salary costs for our Primary Education Programme.

The Boltini Trust awarded a grant to fund one of our Music Practitioner's salaries for 2 days a week.

West Herts Charity Trust awarded a grant to help replace our written off minibus.

19 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

The National Lottery Awards for All was a grant awarded to fund weekly online programme, our fortnightly Open Mic nights and our quarterly Club Nights for the year.

Watford & Three Rivers Trust awarded a grant to fund our visits to specific schools in the lead up to our Shine a Light event in June 2025.

Garfield Weston Foundation is funding to support the delivery of workshops and performances to enhance people with learning disabilities and to foster an inclusive society.

Youth Music have awarded a two year grant to fund our Music Machine programme in four SEND settings, starting in January 2025.

St James Place Foundation was funding towards the salary of a musician.

Dacorum Borough Council was funding for equipment.

Seneca Trust awarded a grant to cover the costs we incurred during the Britain's Got Talent audition weekend in Blackpool.

Meeting Needs awarded a grant to fund our Express schools visits from January to March 2025 in the lead up to the Shine a Light event in June 2025.

Hertfordshire Community Foundation - User Voice is a grant to fund two days a week of the member development staff for six months in the year.

Hertfordshire Community Foundation - Music Machine is a grant to fund an extra day a week of the Music Machine work in SEND schools for six months in the year.

Hertfordshire Community Foundation - Quercus awarded a grant for the Express Schools Programme within Watford mainstream primary schools.

Hertfordshire Community Foundation - Member Development Programme awarded a grant for a fourth year for our Member Development Programme.

Watford Mayor's Grant was a grant towards the costs of Umbrellafest.

The Rix Thompson Rothenberg Foundation awarded a grant to fund the production costs and school visits for our Shine a Light event during the year.

The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust awarded a grant to fund the Big Yellow Choir.

Transfers relate to grants used towards the cost of fixed assets acquired and capitalised in the year.

20 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. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	335,468	821,576	(765,769)	-	391,275

Previous year:	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	242,222	645,502	(558,372)	6,116	335,468

21 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2025 - none).