

HELLENS MUSIC

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED

30 NOVEMBER 2025



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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Principal address	5 Earls Walk London W8 6EP
Telephone	0207 937 0415
Website	www.hellensmusic.com
Registered Charity number	1167396
Bankers	HSBC plc 94 Kensington High Street London W8 4SH
Trustees	Turi Munthe (Chair) Amanda Salmon James Scott
Secretary	Josephine Sheridan
Independent Examiner	Susan Barnwell Much Marcle Herefordshire

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2025

The Trustees present their report with the unaudited financial statements for the period ended 30 November 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities', applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2019.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION

Hellensmusic is a registered charity whose objectives are to promote the arts and advance education in the arts, particularly in music, through a number of different activities, including the provision of music masterclasses, lessons, workshops and performances.

It fulfils these objectives principally, but not exclusively, through the organisation of a Festival and Masterclass Programme which takes place every spring at Hellens Manor in Much Marcle, Herefordshire. The event gathers some of the world's finest musicians together to collaborate and explore ideas in a unique setting; provides talented music students with the opportunity to learn and perform alongside world-class professional musicians; and brings great music to a sometimes forgotten corner of England, inspiring local audiences to a greater understanding and appreciation of music.

Hellensmusic has a strong focus on music education and training for the next generation of musicians. During the festival week, the performing artists deliver a series of masterclasses and rehearsals for talented students from the UK and abroad who are already studying at leading conservatoires and music colleges. Participating students have the opportunity not only to receive individual tuition from internationally recognised musicians, but also to rehearse and perform alongside them in the festival concerts, gaining invaluable professional experience.

At the heart of what we do is a belief that music has the power to transcend barriers and to develop capacities and character. Human quality is critically important to us, and we profoundly believe that the greatest music is made by the greatest human beings.

Hellensmusic started in 2013 as a small private initiative and has been growing steadily ever since. In June 2016 it was registered as an independent Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in its own right.

OUR MISSION

To be a hub for the exploration and creation of music that brings together world-class musicians and future music professionals, to produce the highest quality music for the enjoyment of all; engaging local and wider audiences, and offering unique opportunities for music education for children, young people and emerging musicians.

OUR OBJECTIVES

All of our activities are driven and inspired by the following core objectives:

1. **To create opportunities** for world-class musicians to collaborate outside the concert circuit and explore new ideas.
2. **To provide a platform** for students from the best music schools and colleges in the UK and abroad to learn from leading experts.
3. **To encourage a deeper appreciation and understanding** of music through educational and participatory activities for children, young people and the wider community.
4. **To offer** local audiences exceptional music in a beautiful environment.

OUR ACTIVITIES

In order to accomplish these objectives, Hellensmusic normally provides and supports a number of events and activities during the festival week and throughout the year that include:

1. A series of evening concerts that take place at Hellens, and at other nearby venues during the Festival and throughout the year, at which world-class musicians are invited to perform and work together during their stay.

2. Individual and chamber music masterclasses for students of a variety of instruments, both local and from some of the leading music colleges and conservatoires in the UK and abroad.

3. Educational activities designed to support young musicians and foster engagement with music among children and young people.

4. In addition to the main concerts, masterclasses and selected rehearsals are open to the public free of charge. The Festival also offers pre-concert meals at the house so that audiences can enjoy the venue and feel part of the welcoming atmosphere of the event.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

HELLENSMUSIC 2025

The year 2025 marked the 13th edition of Hellensmusic.

In line with our continued commitment to bringing world-class music-making to Herefordshire, Hellensmusic 2025 welcomed an outstanding group of internationally renowned musicians for a full week of masterclasses, rehearsals and concerts in May. Many of these artists have longstanding connections with the festival, while this year also introduced a number of exciting new collaborations.

The 2025 edition featured the return of Hellensmusic founder and patron Christian Blackshaw alongside co-artistic directors Maya Iwabuchi (violin) and Matthew Hunt (clarinet), as well as long-standing festival artists Alice Neary (cello) and Julien Quentin (piano). Guest artists included internationally renowned bandoneonist and composer Omar Massa, violinist Charlotte Scott, violist and overtone singer Gareth Lubbe, bassoonist Amy Harman, and collaborative pianist Xiaowen Shang.

Omar Massa's performances in particular brought a distinctive contemporary and cross-cultural dimension to the programme. The festival also featured the world première of Massa's new work *Scenes from Buenos Aires*, composed especially for Hellensmusic, presented alongside chamber music by Haydn, Mozart and Dohnányi.

Twelve students from across the UK and Europe participated in the 2025 Masterclass Programme, representing leading conservatoires and music institutions including the Royal Academy of Music, Royal College of Music, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, the Reina Sofía School of Music in Madrid, and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Throughout the week, students worked closely alongside the festival artists in masterclasses, rehearsals and performances.

Seven concerts were presented across the festival week at the Great Barn at Hellens, St Bartholomew's Church and the Walwyn Arms Pub in Much Marcle. The opening concert, *From the Church to the Café,* offered one of the festival's most original and imaginative programmes to date, bringing together music ranging from solo Bach to Piazzolla, tango and contemporary works in a performance that was warmly received by audiences.

Audience attendance remained strong throughout the festival, with several concerts reaching full or near-full capacity, including the Friday evening pub concert, which continues to sell out each year. Audience engagement for the Sunday concerts and opening church concert was particularly encouraging.

The festival meals - Saturday supper and Sunday BBQ lunch - once again contributed to the warm and communal atmosphere that remains central to Hellensmusic.

Hellensmusic continues to provide a distinctive environment in which internationally recognised artists, emerging musicians, local audiences and volunteers come together through a shared experience of music-making, collaboration and learning.

Masterclasses

Hellensmusic's Masterclass Programme remains at the heart of the charity's educational mission. The programme offers talented young musicians the opportunity to work closely with internationally recognised performers through a week of intensive tuition, rehearsals and public performances.

In 2025, the programme welcomed 12 students from across the UK and Europe, representing leading conservatoires and music institutions including the Royal Academy of Music, Royal College of Music, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, the Reina Sofía School of Music in Madrid, and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Throughout the week, students received individual tuition from the festival artists and took part in rehearsals of chamber music works programmed for the festival concerts. Working side-by-side with their tutors, students participated directly in the preparation and performance of the festival repertoire, gaining first-hand experience of professional chamber music-making at the highest level.

In addition to the ensemble work, each student received individual masterclasses and prepared solo repertoire, which was presented in public performance as part of the festival's final day. This combination of one-to-one tuition, chamber music rehearsals and performance opportunities remains one of the distinctive features of Hellensmusic, allowing students to develop both as individual performers and as collaborative musicians within a professional artistic environment.

Beyond the formal teaching programme, students benefit from the close-knit and residential nature of the festival. Shared meals, rehearsals and informal conversations provide valuable opportunities for mentorship, artistic exchange and personal development that extend beyond the classroom environment.

The charity remains committed to keeping the programme accessible. In 2025, students received a full week of tuition, accommodation and meals for a highly subsidised course fee of £300, made possible through the support of donors, trusts and supporters of the charity.

Student feedback continued to highlight the unique opportunity to work side-by-side with internationally recognised musicians, the supportive and collaborative atmosphere of the festival, and the significant artistic development achieved over the course of the week. As one student commented, "Getting to play with such experienced professionals is priceless."

AUDIENCES AND AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

Audience attendance remained strong throughout the 2025 festival, with more than 700 tickets sold across concerts and festival events. Several performances reached full or near-full capacity, including the opening concert at St Bartholomew's Church, the Friday and Saturday afternoon concerts at Hellens, and the annual Pub Concert at the Walwyn Arms.

Hellensmusic continues to attract a loyal and committed audience, many of whom return year after year. While the majority of audience members come from Herefordshire and neighbouring counties, the festival also welcomes visitors from London and other parts of the UK, contributing to its growing national profile.

A central objective of the charity remains the removal of barriers to participation and engagement. Full-time students continued to be offered free access to festival concerts, whilst audiences were also invited to attend all masterclasses and selected rehearsals free of charge, providing opportunities to engage more deeply with the artistic and educational activities of the festival.

The annual Pub Concert remains an important part of our audience development strategy. By presenting classical music in an informal setting and combining it with music from a variety of genres and traditions, the event continues to attract both regular concertgoers and members of the local community who may not otherwise attend a classical music performance.

The festival's hospitality events, including the Saturday supper and Sunday BBQ lunch, once again played an important role in fostering a sense of community amongst audiences, artists, students and volunteers. These occasions encourage social interaction and contribute to the welcoming atmosphere that has become a defining characteristic of Hellensmusic.

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

Hellensmusic continues to employ a multi-layered approach to marketing and publicity, combining traditional offline techniques with digital tools, partnerships and targeted communications. Our strategy includes printed materials, local visibility, email marketing, social media engagement, online listings, and a strong website presence.

Printed Materials: Posters and flyers were distributed throughout Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Monmouthshire, targeting local businesses, music venues and community noticeboards. Road signage and banners were placed in strategic locations around Much Marcle in the weeks leading up to the festival.

Digital Communications: The festival website remains the central platform for information, ticket sales and student applications. Email newsletters continued to play an important role in communicating with audiences, supporters and prospective students, while social media activity focused on promoting the festival, its artists, students and educational activities in the months leading up to the event.

Masterclass Recruitment: Alongside promoting the festival concerts, a significant part of the charity's communications activity focused on the Masterclass Programme. Information about the course was circulated to leading conservatoires and music colleges across the UK and Europe and advertised through specialist online platforms and networks for music students. This helped ensure that the programme continued to attract applications from talented young musicians studying at some of the most respected music institutions in Europe.

Listings and Partnerships: The festival was featured in a range of classical music and cultural listings, local event calendars and partner communications, helping to extend its reach beyond existing audiences.

Public Relations: In 2025, the charity engaged public relations consultant Sabina Nielsen to support press activity and help raise awareness of the festival within the wider classical music sector. This resulted in coverage across a number of local and regional media outlets.

A particular highlight was an interview with Hellensmusic founder and patron Christian Blackshaw on BBC Radio 3, which helped bring the festival to the attention of a wider audience.

FUNDRAISING

Hellensmusic continues to rely on a combination of charitable grants, individual donations and supporter contributions to sustain its artistic and educational activities.

The charity is particularly grateful for the continued support of the Pennington Mellor Munthe Charity Trust, whose commitment remains fundamental to the delivery of the festival and masterclass programme. We also acknowledge the support of the Cadbury Foundation and the many individuals whose donations contribute to the charity's work.

The Hellensmusic Supporters Programme remains an important source of support for the charity. Through the Friend, Patron and Benefactor membership levels, supporters contribute directly to the continued presentation of the festival and the delivery of educational opportunities for emerging musicians. During 2025, the programme comprised 36 supporters and generated £4,630 in donations, in addition to Gift Aid contributions where applicable.

Individual donations and supporter contributions play a valuable role in helping the charity maintain the accessibility of its Masterclass Programme and continue offering opportunities for talented young musicians to learn and perform alongside internationally recognised artists.

Hellensmusic remains deeply grateful to all donors, supporters and volunteers whose generosity and commitment make the charity's work possible.

VISION AND GOALS FOR 2026

The charity's primary objective for 2026 remains the continued development of Hellensmusic as both a festival of artistic excellence and a centre for music education.

Particular emphasis will be placed on further strengthening the Masterclass Programme, building relationships with conservatoires and music institutions across the UK and Europe, and ensuring that talented young musicians continue to benefit from exceptional opportunities to learn, perform and collaborate alongside internationally recognised artists. During 2026, additional support has been introduced to assist with student recruitment and institutional outreach, helping to broaden awareness of the programme among emerging musicians.

The charity will continue its commitment to presenting world-class chamber music performances in Herefordshire while providing a creative environment in which professional musicians can collaborate, explore new repertoire and develop artistic partnerships.

Alongside its artistic and educational objectives, Hellensmusic will continue to seek new sources of funding while nurturing existing relationships with supporters, donors and charitable trusts whose contributions remain essential to the charity's work.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

In order to allow more time to prepare the financial statements between the closing of the Festival in May, which is the charity's principal activity during the year, and the end of the financial reporting period which was 31 July, the accounting period-end date has been moved to 30 November.

As a result this year's accounting period has been extended by a further four months to 30 November 2025. This means that the comparative figures in this year's report show the figures for the sixteen months ended 30 November against those for the twelve months ended 31 July 2024.

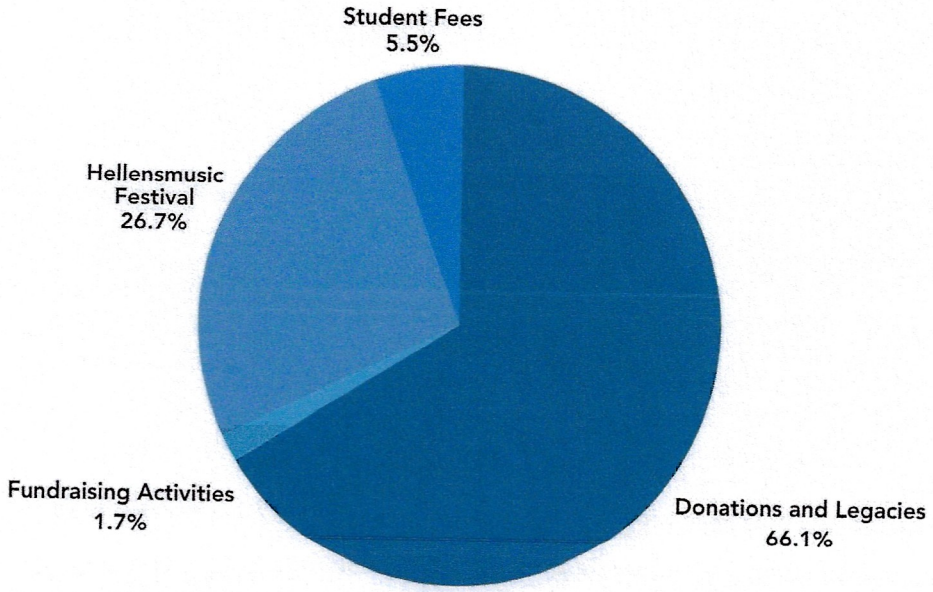
Total income generated during the period amounted to £50,237 (2024: £31,298), details of which are presented in the following section of this report. During the same period costs were incurred of £71,613 (2024: £64,370) as a result of organising and delivering our various charitable activities before, during and after the Festival. These are also detailed in the relevant section of the report below. The net overall result of all these activities was to generate an operating deficit of £21,376 (2024: deficit of £33,072).

INCOME – Where the money came from

The total income for the period of £50,237 (2024: £31,298) was generated by the following activities (figures in brackets show % share of total income):

- £33,183 (66.1%) - Donations and Legacies
- £17,054 (33.9%) - Charitable Activities, consisting of:
    - £873 (1.7%) - Fundraising & Advertising activities
    - £13,431 (26.7%) - Hellensmusic Festival
    - £2,750 (5.5%) - Student fees (from those attending Masterclasses).

These are presented in the chart below:

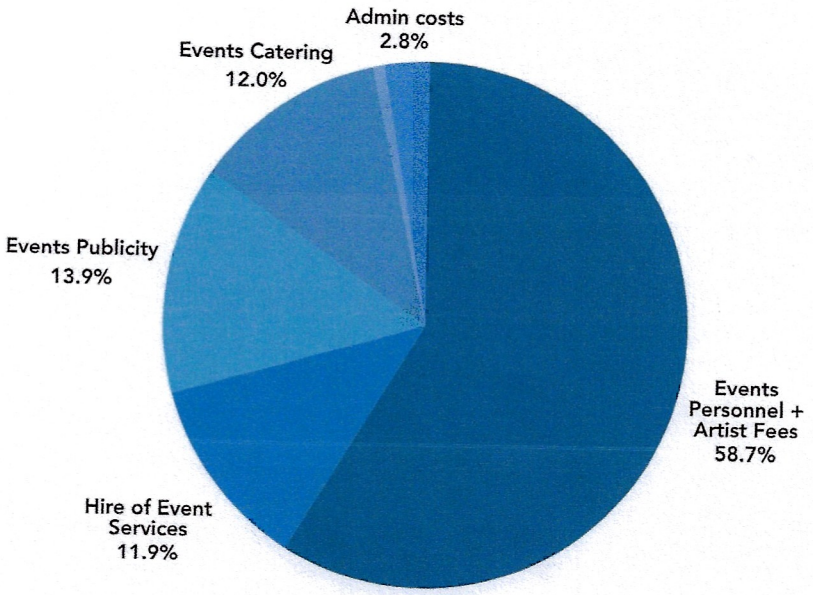


EXPENDITURE – How the money was spent

Our total costs of £71,613 (2024: £64,370), all of which were incurred in carrying out our Charitable Activities, have been broken down in the following way (figures in brackets show % share of total expenditure):

- £69,088 (96.5%) on Events-related expenditure, consisting of:
  - £42,050 (58.7%) - Events Personnel
  - £8,548 (11.9%) - Hire of Events Services & Other Materials
  - £9,921 (13.9%) - Events Publicity
  - £8,569 (12.0%) - Events Catering
- £500 (0.7%) on Donations
- £2,025 (2.8%) on Admin costs

These are shown in the chart below:



Expenditure 2024-25

The above details of our income and expenditure are presented in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) for the period on page 14 of this report. The SoFA is more of a 'narrative' of the financial activities during the period, whilst the Balance Sheet, which can be found on page 15, provides more of a 'snapshot' of the charity's financial position as at the end of the financial period on 30 November 2025.

BALANCE SHEET – How we ended the period

The balance sheet shows that as at 30 November 2025, the charity had current assets of £1,082 (2024: £24,458) in the form of cash, and current liabilities of £3,000 (2024: £5,000).

This has left a net deficit of £1,918, (2024: surplus of £19,458) which is represented as a negative balance in the General Fund in the charity's reserves.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

The law applicable to charities requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year or period 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 period. In preparing the financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the method and principles in the applicable 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;
- prepare the financial statements on the on-going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust governing documents. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.



..... Turi Munthe

Trustee

Date: .....17th.....xx September 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE HELLENSMUSIC

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Hellensmusic (the Charity) for the period ended 30 November 2025.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Susan Barnwell.

Susan Barnwell
Much Marcle
Herefordshire

Date:.....xx September 2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	Y/E 31 July 2024 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS			
Donations and legacies		33,183	14,041
Charitable activities		17,054	17,257
Total Income		50,237	31,298
EXPENDITURE			
Charitable activities	3	71,613	64,370
NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE)		(21,376)	(33,072)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		19,458	52,530
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		(1,918)	19,458

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All income and expenditure have arisen from continuing activities.

BALANCE SHEET
AT 30 NOVEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	31 July 2024 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank		490	24,458
Prepayments		592	-
		1,082	24,458
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	5	(3,000)	(5,000)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		(1,918)	19,458
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		(1,918)	19,458
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds	6	(1,918)	19,458
TOTAL FUNDS		(1,918)	19,458

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on xxth September 2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....

Turi Munthe -Trustee

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

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

Expenditure

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

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.
The charity does not currently receive any restricted funds, and all figures in the financial statements therefore relate to unrestricted funding

2. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There was no Trustees' remuneration or other benefits, nor were any Trustees' expenses paid during the period.

3. STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Staff costs	42,050	38,868

These consisted of payments to events personnel who assisted in preparing and delivering activities during the Festival. This figure also includes performance fees for all the participating artists at the event.

4. DEBTORS

There were no debtors as at 30 November 2025.

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other creditors	3,000	5,000
TOTAL CREDITORS	3,000	5,000

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1 August 2024	Net movement in funds	At 30 November 2025
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	19,458	(21,376)	(1,918)

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

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	50,237	71,613	(21,376)
TOTAL FUNDS	50,237	71,613	(21,376)

7. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the period ended 30 November 2025.