Section C	Objectives and activities
Summary of the objects of the charity....	The objectives of the Penzance Literary Festival are: To promote the arts for the public benefit, and in particular the art of literature, by the establishment and maintenance of an annual arts festival. To advance the education of the public by promoting and providing opportunities for the appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of literature.
Summary of the main activities undertaken ...	The Trustees, having read the Charity Commission's Guidance on public benefit, have taken due regard of these requirements when exercising their powers and duties and in running the annual five-day Literary Festival (LitFest) in Penzance and associated events. To ensure the annual LitFest has a wide appeal it uses community venues for events to keep costs and ticket prices to a minimum. These events are open to all, with admission charges kept as low as possible, with price concessions for those in receipt of benefits. The Trustees work closely with other local organisations, including schools, Cornwall Young and Talented and Exploding Words. In addition to the programmed July festival we also facilitated three events for children and young people. Please see section D for details of these events.
Additional details of objectives and activities (optional information)	The annual Literary Festival is organised and run entirely by the Organising Team who are a small group of unpaid volunteers. The Organising Team met regularly throughout the year and during the event 20 other volunteers (including Trustees) helped with running the events each day as stewards, 'meeters and greeters', venue managers, etc. The charity actively seeks funding opportunities for 2026 and beyond so that the festival can continue to attract authors from across the UK as well as from the local area. .

Section D	Achievements and performance
Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year	The 14th annual Penzance Literary Festival (LitFest) was held from the 1st to the 5th July 2025. We are pleased to report that the LitFest was a great success. Our audience numbers were up 35% on last year and we crossed the 2,000 threshold for ticket sales for the first time. With the support of existing and new Cornish-based sponsors we were able to be more adventurous with our programming while also continuing to promote local talent, with 56% of our content drawn from Cornish contributors.

Facts and figures for the Penzance LitFest 2025:

- We held 49 events. These included 34 standard events, a walk, a music event, 12 workshops and two evening headliner events. 18 of these events were sold out.
- We used four venues – *The Acorn, The Exchange, Pixel, the Morrab Library.*
- We maintained the ticket price for our daytime author events at £6 and our two-hour workshops at £20.
- We sold 2,101 tickets (compared to 1,556 in 2024). We sold 56 concessionary tickets and over 1,400 tickets to the 34 standard events. Most of the tickets were sold in advance.
- We held three outreach events for children.
- With regards marketing we printed and distributed 5,500 programmes. We sent regular email newsletters to our2,400 subscribers.

Our headliners included: Booker Prize Winner of *Orbital,* Samantha Harvey; novelist, scriptwriter and actress Ruth Jones; Scottish crime writer Denis Mina; novelist Andrew Miller, since shortlisted for the 2025 Booker Prize. Philip Marsden, Rachel Joyce, Petroc Trelawny and Jane Johnson were among local authors who took to the stage.

We followed through on our commitment to nurturing new talent by giving our Young Fiction Writers Panel (with up-and-coming Cornish writers Ronnie Turner and Jodie Matthews taking part) the opportunity to be interviewed by BBC Radio1 Extra DJ Fee Mak and talk about their work.

We ran 12 writing workshops with all bar one selling out. We ran the 'LitFest Guide To Novel Writing' for the second year with Cathy Rentzenbrink, Anna Wilson and Claire Fuller among authors sharing their skills and advice. In response to feedback from last year for more poetry events we held three workshops – one run by published poet Katrina Naomi – and two poetry performances.

We worked hard to schedule a programme with broad appeal. Our aim was to entice someone in who has never been to a LitFest event before. To this end, alongside our contemporary literature topics this year, we covered local history (always popular), Cornwall's archives, legends and myths, WWII propaganda, football, the housing crisis, law and crime. The same is also true of our launch night event, "Grace Will Lead Me Home'. The life of John Newton, a leading slavery abolitionist (who wrote the hymn, Amazing Grace) was retold in songs and writings, and performed to a packed house.

As a result of additional funding we were able to expand our offer to children and young people as part of the LitFest. We have a very good relationship with Humphrey Davy School and for the fourth consecutive year, one of our authors – this time Anna Wilson – ran a workshop for Year 8. We organised a children's storytelling event in the public library with the Morrab Library Assistant James Parnham-Kenny and puppet. Our

	biggest venture, however, was our involvement with the Exploding Words Festival and in particular the Creative Writing Competition. Our Trustees read and judged (alongside others) the entries from three local schools and we hosted the prize-giving ceremony during the LitFest. As well as book tokens for the winners, we were able to gift a selection of poetry books to the schools involved. Anna Wilson and our patron Patrick Gale attended and a student mentor from Young & Talented Cornwall talked about where the winners could take their writing skills in future. It was all very inspiring and we are already in discussions about how to continue and expand the partnership in 2026, which will also be the National Year of Reading: promoting reading not only to children and young adults but within families. The unsolicited responses from our audiences and authors have been overwhelmingly positive as have the comments from our annual survey. In summary, feedback from the 2025 LitFest survey showed: • A larger, more engaged audience; • An increased pull from returning visitors and author-focused marketing; • Growth in social media influence (especially Instagram) and word-of-mouth; • Slightly higher ratings across nearly all festival experience metrics; • A mature audience as usual but with a small growth among younger adults • A greater willingness to pay more than £6 for tickets. The feedback from the survey, audiences and authors will be fed into our programming for the LitFest 2026.

M. FORTY Chair of Trustees

14.05.26

FINANCE REPORT FOR 2025

The overall position at the end of the year for the 2025 LitFest was a surplus of £6,489, which is a increase on the surplus achieved by the 2024 LitFest of £4,357.

INCOME

The Myner Trust grant of £10,000 was treated as a non-restricted reserve and has been expended in its entirety for 2025. This grant was spent on increasing the fees paid to contributors from £60 to £100, as well as a professional photographer to photograph events at the LitFest. The costs of Exploding Words event were also supported by the Myner Trust grant.

Ticket sales were higher than expected and were up by over 30% on 2024, with ticket prices being held at £6 for most events.

EXPENSES

The most substantial costs incurred by the LitFest are the costs of the contributors, and these had doubled since 2024. The Myner Trust grant allowed for an increase in fees paid to contributors, as indicated above. In addition, travel and accommodation costs in general have been particularly hit by inflationary pressures over the last few years, and this has resulted in a significant increase in these costs incurred for the contributors for 2025.

RESERVES

The surplus achieved for 2025 of £6,489 has boosted the retained reserves as at the year end, and these now stand at £15,592.

OVERALL POSITION

The support of the Myner Trust has allowed for the increase in contributors' fees, as well as absorbing some of the impact of inflation on travel and accommodation, without the LitFest being forced to increase ticket prices. The retained reserves have also received a healthy boost in 2025.

M. FORTY Chair of Trustees

14.05.26

Penzance Literary Festival Income and Expenditure 2025

Details	2024 Final	2025 Budget	2025 Forecast	2025 Final	Variance Between Forecast & Actual
Income					
grants and sponsorship					
payment from Pz Town Council	3000	0	0	0	0
PDTA	550	500	250	250	0
FEAST	0	500	0	0	0
sponsorship and grants	675	675	11850	11850	0
total grants and sponsorship	4225	1675	12100	12100	0
donations					
miscellaneous	40	400	40	40	0
Penzance folk club and friends	555	0	250	300	50
total donations	595	400	290	340	50
programme adverts					
payments other than through sponsorship	620	620	680	680	0
total revenue from programme adverts	620	620	680	680	0
sales and miscellaneous income apart from special events					
ticket sales after commission and booking fee	10273	10000	10000	13694	3694
bank interest	14	20	100	11	-89
Waterstones commission	514	450	450	530	80
other sales and income	53	20	20	0	-20
total sales and miscellaneous inc Waterstones commission	10855	10490	10570	14235	3665
special and outreach events					
school payment towards school outreach event	50	50	50	50	0
Open garden	495	0	0		0
total special and outreach events	545	50	50	50	0
Income totals	16840	13235	23690	27405	3715
Expenditure					
venues and staff					
Acorn	1000	1000	1200	1250	50
Morrab Library	200	200	200	200	0
other venues	600	800	600	650	50
technical Steve	500	500	600	500	-100
other technical staff	0	0	0	150	150
total venues and staff	2300	2500	2600	2750	150
insurance, banking etc					
insurance	160	160	475	475	0
bank charges	60	60	60	60	0
total insurance and banking etc	220	220	535	535	0
publicity					
programme editing	0	600	600	750	150
programme, poster and flier printing	2069	2200	2500	2465	-35
programme delivery	0	0	0	0	0
banners and other publicity setdressing	179	100	100	98	-2
website costs	53	500	500	54	-446
mailchimp including survey	519	520	520	553	33
other advertising and publicity	2	0	0	469	469
total publicity	2823	3920	4220	4390	170
event expenses					
souvenir gifts for contributors and wine/hospitality for Patrick Gale	927	600	600	1376	776
steward and team tabs at Acorn and Honey Pot, plus Morrab	550	550	550	669	119
other expenses eg specific set-dressing, (green room/author refreshments to 2023)	120	120	120	25	-95
total event expenses	1597	1270	1270	2070	800
team and trustee expenses					
team planning and wash-up, hospitality and travel	222	250	250	506	256
trustee meeting and research etc expenses	132	130	130	94	-36
team and trustee meeting expenses	353	380	380	600	220
contributor/artiste expenses/fees					
fees for talks, workshops, entertainment etc including interviewers from 2024	3560	4000	10000	6150	-3850
subsistence, materials VAT included in claims and 'other costs' 2023 and 2024	60	50	50	2830	2780
accommodation	0	500	750	490	-260
travel including rail warrants	1380	1500	2000	329	-1671
Other single event expenses				298	298
contributor/artiste expenses and fees	5000	6050	12800	10098	-2702
stationery, post and misc. admin					
hardware	0	20	20		-20
stationery, post and other miscellaneous etc	9	20	20	13	-7
stationery, post and misc. admin expenses	9	40	40	13	-27
special and outreach events					
Story Telling at the Library	32	0	0	0	0
Schools workshop -- Anna Wilson	150	150	150	150	0
Exploding Words Event	0	0	200	311	111
special events	182	150	350	461	111
Expenditure totals	12483	14530	22195	20915	-1279
Total surplus/(deficit)	**4357**	**-1295**	**1495**	**6489**	**4994**

M. FORTY Chair of Trustees 14.05.26

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Charity Name Penzance Literary Festival		
On accounts for the year ended	31st December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1168422
Set out on pages	(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 12 / 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the 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 (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:	DocuSigned by: AA427FAE3F2540A...	**Date:**	06-09-2026
Name:	Ian Abrahams		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):			
Address:	11 South Abany Road Redruth		

Cornwall TR15 2PE

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	