Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	01	April	2025	**To**	31	March	2026

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	The Sand House Charity
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1171875
Charity's principal address	7 Ayots Green
	Dunscroft
	Doncaster
	Postcode DN7 4HG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Richard Bell	Chair		
2	Mick Jenkinson			
3	Andrew Isaacs			
4	Mark Waterhouse			
5	Heather Charlton			
6	Amanda Pratt			
7				
8				

Names of other trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Not applicable

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution dated 02 March 2017
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Foundation Model
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Apart from the initial charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

A Financial Policy and Procedures document was formally approved at a meeting of trustees held on 15 June 2017. Version 2.0 was agreed on 13 October 2021 and remained current throughout 2025/26.

A Health and Safety Policy document was issued on 7 November 2017. Version 2.0 was agreed on 13 October 2021 and remained current throughout 2025/26.

None of the charity's activities are considered to present a major health and safety risk. However, written risk assessments are produced and implemented for activities involving the general public, as a minimum.

A Privacy Statement was issued on 20 May 2018. Version 3.0 was agreed on 19 April 2023 and remained current throughout 2025/26.

Policies for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults were issued on 28 May 2018. Version 2 was agreed on 19 April 2023 and remained current throughout 2025/26.

An Equality & Diversity Policy was issued on 8 April 2020 and remained current throughout 2025/26.

An Expenses Policy was issued on 8 April 2020. Version 1.2 was issued on 23 October 2025, updating some limits of remuneration, and remained current throughout the rest of 2025/26.

The above policies are reviewed each year.

The six Trustees who were serving at the end of 2024/25 continued to serve throughout 2025/26. With the agreement and support of the other Trustees, Amanda Pratt temporarily stepped away from taking an active role while she dealt with various personal matters. We hope and expect that she will be in a position to resume her full role during 2026/27.

Each Trustee serves for a maximum term of 3 years, after which they may seek reappointment.

New trustees who are not already known to the existing Board are interviewed by at least two existing trustees. The interview results are considered by a meeting of the existing trustees, and a decision made as to whether to appoint.

Richard Bell and Mark Waterhouse represent the charity at meetings of the Doncaster and District Heritage Association.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The Sand House Charity's registered object is "*to advance the education of the public in history, art, sculpture and other related subjects having a link to the former Victorian Sand House of Doncaster*".

Furthermore, it has a mission statement "*to share the unique legacy of Doncaster's Victorian Sand House with as wide an audience as possible, and to encourage learning and engagement through presentations, performances, and other creative activities*".

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

In planning and undertaking our activities during this period the trustees had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

In summary, the following activities took place for the public benefit.

- Four days of sand art sessions, spread across two periods
- Four illustrated talks (in person), including one for Heritage Open Days 2025
- One guided walk at the Sand House locality
- Architectural drawing workshop for Heritage Open Days 2025
- Exhibiting at Doncaster & District Family History Fair
- Exhibiting at Doncaster Local History Fair
- Continued development of a virtual reality (VR) project
- Release fully subtitled version of Sand House drama for deaf community
- Record oral history for "Icons of Doncaster" project
- Loaned resources to Girl Guide group
- Refresh website
- Promotional piece on BBC Radio Sheffield
- Regular educational posts on social media
- Newsletters to subscribers
- Website maintained and updated

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Our charity is run entirely by volunteers and we are immensely grateful to them for enabling the charity to deliver the activities and projects that further its aims. Most of the activities that are summarised above required two or more volunteers, with the sand art sessions being particularly dependent on them. Our thanks go out to everyone who helped us to achieve our objectives in 2025/26.

Despite being located 200 miles away from the charity's base, our Patron, Matthew Schellhorn, continued to support our endeavours. His commitment towards helping us achieve our aims is greatly appreciated.

The Architectural Drawing workshop for Heritage Open Days was presented by Jacob Peplow, free of charge, to whom we extend our sincere thanks.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The four days of pop-up sand art sessions that we ran during 2025/26 were split between three days during October half-term andone1 day during Easter 2026. The latter day was 31st March, and was followed by 3 more days during the Easter school holidays that fell within the 2026/27 year.

For the first time, our sand art took place in the Danum Gallery, Library and Museum, in a room frequently used for children's and family activities. It was very successful, with 298 people attending over the three October days and 106 on the March day. They comprised mainly parents with children. From 24 feedback forms that were gathered during the October event, the average rating awarded by parents was 9.5/10.

The four illustrated talks that we delivered in the year attracted an aggregate audience of 126 people. They included a first-time visit to an organisation providing experiences and events for adults with learning disabilities (DICE Enterprise, Doncaster). The talks were the 80th to the 83rd since our charity was formed.

In August 2025 we led another of our popular guided walks in the locality of the former Sand House. Once again, it elicited excellent feedback. On this occasion, we treated the walk as a fundraising event, achieving a good level of ticket income supplemented by merchandise sales to raise vital funds. The walk attracted 19 people. Attendance is capped for reasons of safety and to ensure that everyone can hear the commentary.

For the eighth year in succession, we participated in the annual, England-wide Heritage Open Days festival. As the Sand House is no longer physically extant, we look for innovative ways to celebrate its story, while meeting our educational objective. On this occasion, we ran an architectural drawing workshop, linking to the HOD2025 theme of Architecture. Eight people attended (two other no-shows). Excellent written feedback was obtained, and an average rating of 9.6/10 awarded.

Both the Doncaster & District Family History Fair and the Doncaster Local History Fair returned in 2025, and The Sand House Charity exhibited at both. The former took place in August, with the venue being the newly-restored Corn Exchange, Doncaster. Being in the city centre and within the Market Place, the Fair attracted people who may well not have routinely engaged with us, but were curious and came along. We considered the day to be very successful.

The Local History Fair was held in November, at the Danum Gallery, Library & Museum, allowing us to place our stand alongside the permanent Sand House display in Doncaster Museum.

2025/26 saw 86% of all our project hours dedicated to the detailed development of a virtual reality (VR) experience. We established a very good relationship with a Barnsley-based web development company who are keen to help us achieve our ambitions in this field. We produced a 'Case for Support' booklet and we obtained feedback from municipal museums elsewhere in England that had used VR in their story-telling. We prepared a Project Enquiry Form and submitted it to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, to obtain their guidance on the direction we were taking. This led to a funding application which was unsuccessful. As the year progressed, we began to focus on funding and delivering a pilot VR project first of all, to demonstrate more easily the value of this technology in the heritage field. Other funding applications were made but, by the

Section D Achievements and performance

end of March 2026, the challenging financial climate in the charity sector meant that we had still not secured the required money. However, feedback from one of our unsuccessful applications – in this case to The National Archives for a Seed Corn Grant – gave us hope that a submission for their Round 2 funding stream might bring success. The VR project remains firmly in our plans moving forward.

As an enhancement to the 2024/25 project that produced an audio drama based upon the 2018 Sand House stage play, we created a version for YouTube that was fully sub-titled (including descriptions of sound effects and other dramatic devices). It was aimed at the deaf and hard of hearing communities.

Also in the field of audio recordings, we were asked to contribute towards a local radio project titled “Icons of Doncaster”. The Sand House was one of over 50 local subjects chosen by Doncastrians to be marked by a radio programme. As a result, Richard Bell, Chair of Trustees, was interviewed and recorded for a programme on the Sand House’s history.

As it was several years since our Charity website had been overhauled, we took the opportunity to do so in autumn 2025. The result is a fresher looking site with clearer navigation. All content was thoroughly reviewed and updated where necessary.

During September 2025 we achieved an ambition of adding present-day drone video footage to our animated digital model of the Sand House site in its heyday. This was in response to members of the public asking what occupied the Sand House site today. As a result of excellent editing by Joseph Hare, the modern footage exactly overlays the animated model when the video transitions from one to the other, enabling features of the Sand House site to be located precisely on the current infrastructure.

Facebook continued to be one of our main ways of routinely sharing educational information about the Sand House. Instagram and X continued to be used, too, with occasional posts being made on Bluesky and Mastodon, too. Our Facebook page Follows were approaching 3.5k by the end of the year.

Three newsletters were sent out to just over 250 subscribers via Mailchimp during the year.

Through the year we have continued to record all the hours expended by our volunteers, along with details of the activities undertaken. A total of 766 hours were expended. This was down from the highest ever total of 1084 in 2024/25, but is the median annual value since we began recording such information, in 2019/20. 50% of all the hours were expended on Events (excl, talks), demonstrating a significant effort allocated to direct engagement with the general public.

APPENDIX A provides a detailed breakdown of the 2025/26 hours and activities.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity’s policy on reserves

The Sand House Charity aims to hold the equivalent of at least three months’ running costs in reserve at all times. In practice, the charity has very few unavoidable costs, with insurance and web hosting being the only significant ones.

Details of any funds materially in deficit	Not applicable.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The charity's usual principal sources of Unrestricted funds are donations by:

- groups receiving illustrated talks
- individuals attending illustrated talks
- individuals attending guided walks
- individuals making monthly donations

The above four categories raised £581 in the year.

Income from a third party selling merchandise and donating the profits exceeded £130 in the year.

Two Easyfundraising disbursements raised £42 in the year.

One grant was received, that being a Cultural Connections grant from the City of Doncaster Council. The sum was £154, and it was to pay for equipment used to assist with the pop-up sand art sessions. This was the only Restricted Funds income in the year.

Section F Other optional information

The charity can continue its routine educational work of providing illustrated talks, guided walks, online information via social media and attendance at history fairs while incurring very little cost. It is envisaged that larger, project-type work will continue to be funded by grants and our own fundraising activities. In simple terms, beyond the routine work, our activities will be determined by the level of funding that we can secure.

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Richard Nigel Bell	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair of Trustees	
Date	14 Oct 2026	

APPENDIX A

The Sand House Charity: Details of volunteer hours and activities during 2025/26

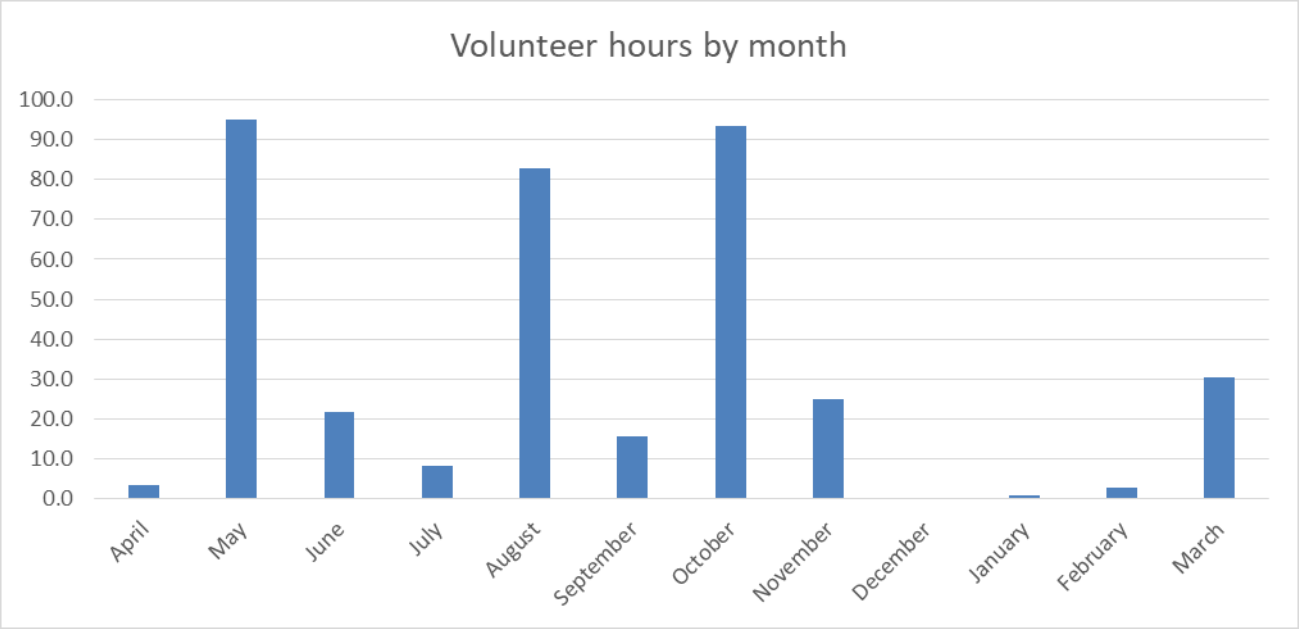
Background

The numbers of hours expended by volunteers on behalf of The Sand House Charity have been recorded. This has been done to:

- identify how much input is required to manage the charity's activities
- formally record the types of activities undertaken by the charity, both by general category and in detail
- provide potential funders, where required, with information on the charity's resources and activities
- assist in estimating the resources required for future activities
- facilitate the preparation of the charity's Annual Report.

The following sections provide an analysis of the recorded hours and activities.

Hours expended per month



The peaks of activity are, in general, due to the following:

- May – Preparing and running VR taster sessions.
- August – Preparing for Heritage Open Days events in Sept and attendance at Family History Fair
- October – Pop-up sand art sessions

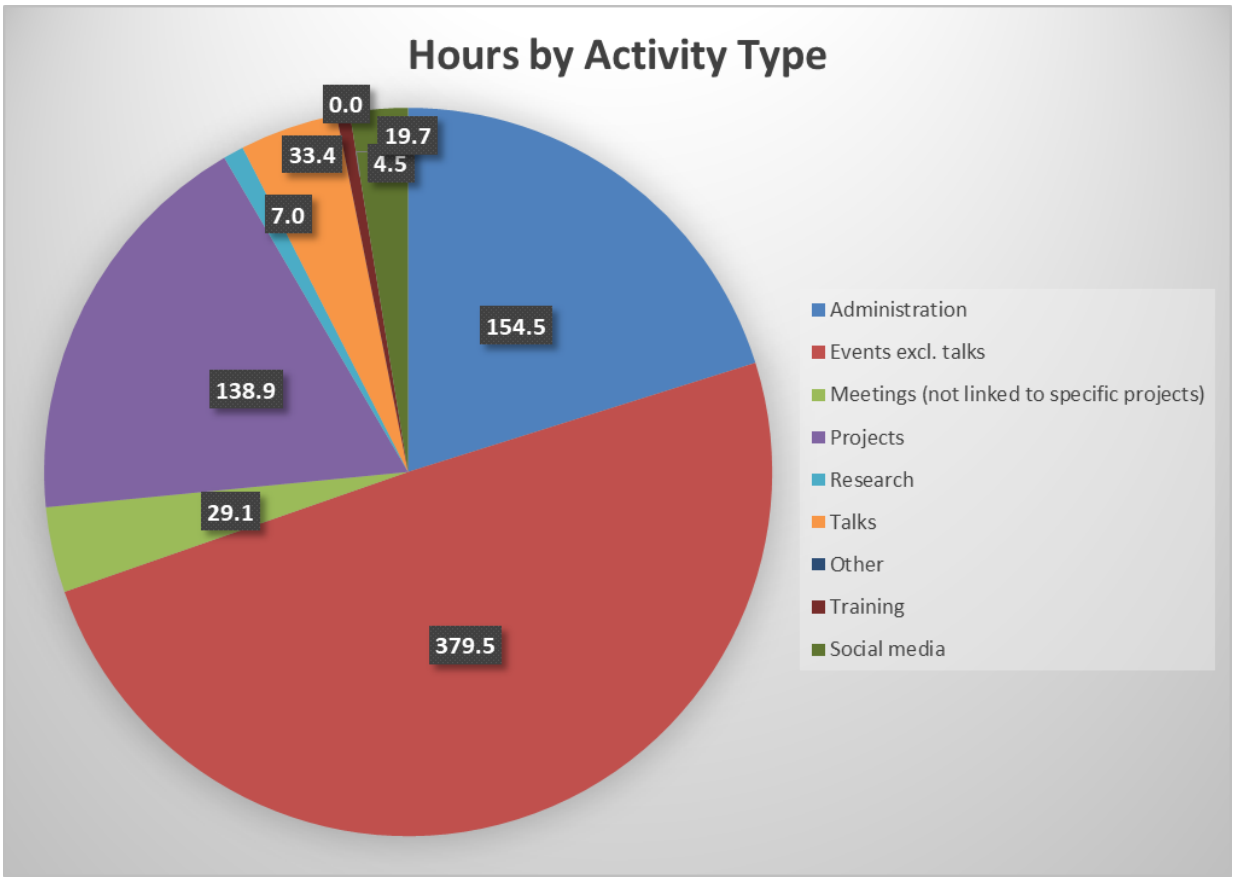
Hours per Activity Type

All volunteer hours are recorded against a standard menu of Activity Types. They are defined as follows:

Administration: Routine, office-based tasks not linked directly to a project or event. Examples include typing up meeting minutes, general correspondence, collating documents for accountant, preparing annual reports, etc.. Work recorded as Administration doesn't contribute directly to the charitable aims of the Charity, but is work that has to be done for the smooth running of the organisation or, perhaps, is a legal obligation.
Events excl. talks: This includes all events that are neither talks nor part of a specific project. Examples include attending history fairs and community gatherings, running pop-up sand art sessions, but also includes any preparation and follow up specifically relating to the event.

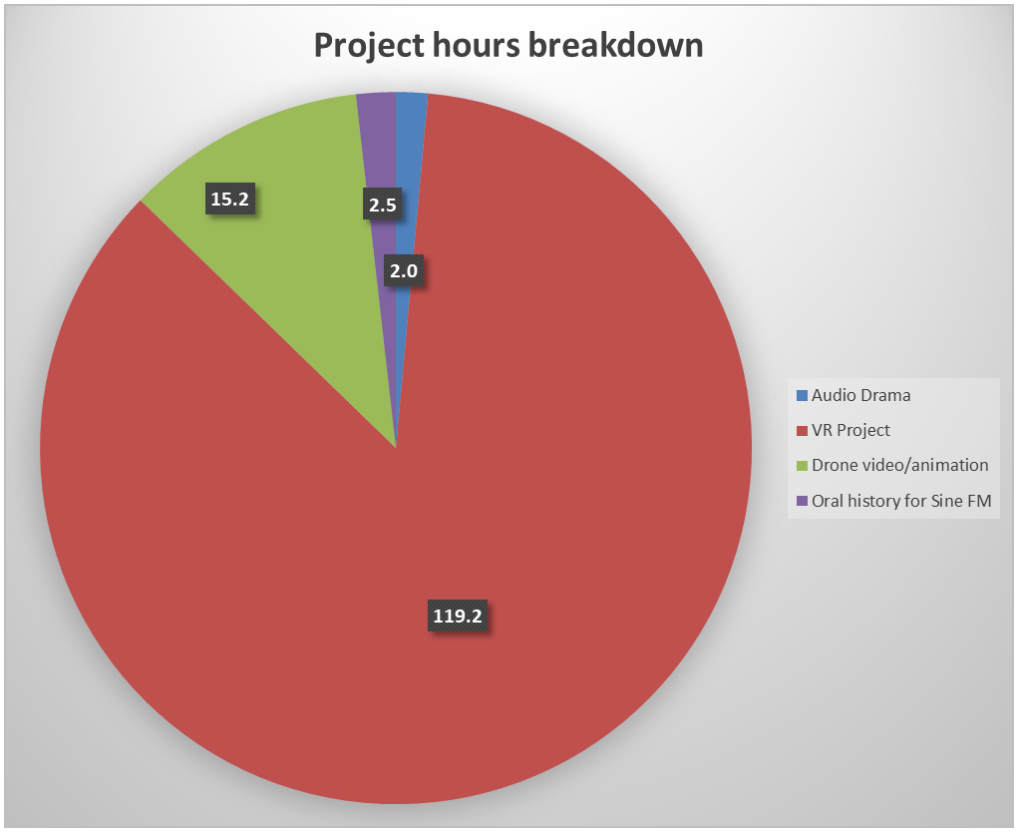
Meetings (not linked to specific projects): Trustees' meetings and meetings linked to the general running of the charity. They exclude any meetings that form part of a project, whether funded or not.
Projects: All time spent working on specific, time-limited activities with a particular output at the end, whether or not they have been funded specifically, from grants and other external sources. Examples include the Sand House play, the schools literacy project (Exploring Culture), and 3D digital modelling/VR work.
Research: This will usually be research into the history of the Sand House, possiibly but not necessarily at various libraries and archives i.e. it could be online, or reviewing previously acquired research material.
Social media: Posts and comments aimed at educating the public, including promoting events. (Technical updates and general, non-educational or non-event-related posts are classified as Administration).
Talks: These will usually be illustrated talks to either specific groups or the general public. Include preparation and any follow up specifically relating to the talk.
Training: Attending a training course or workshop or delivering training to others working for The Sand House Charity.
Other: Any activity not specifically included within the other Activity Types. Should a new Activity Type be identified it may be added to the drop-down list.

Using the above definitions, the volunteer hours per Activity Type across the whole of 2025/26 are as shown in the pie chart below.



Breakdown of 'Projects' Activity Type

The hours expended on the 'Projects' Activity Type have been analysed in detail and broken down into the following specific activities. A significant proportion of the Events undertaken in the year were linked to the VR project, such as VR taster sessions using a headset. The hours spent on VR-related events could have equally well been recorded under the Projects heading but we chose to show them as Events, as they usually involved direct contact with members of the public.


Project hours breakdown
15.2
2.5
2.0
119.2
Audio Drama
VR Project
Drone video/animation
Oral history for Sine FM

END

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
The Sand House Charity	

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/04/2025		31/03/2026

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants	-	154	-	154	1,282
Donations held in NatWest account	662	-	-	662	2,663
Fundraising activities	140	-	-	140	110
Disbursements	44	-	-	44	-
Gift Aid from HMRC	468	-	-	468	47
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	1,314	154	-	1,468	4,102
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	1,314	154	-	1,468	4,102
A3 Payments					
Postage	-	-	-	-	8
Equipment, materials & costumes	36	155	-	191	1,511
Insurance	170	-	-	170	170
Professional fees	150	-	-	150	9,562
Room hire	186	-	-	186	194
Subscriptions	102	-	-	102	99
Website	307	-	-	307	88
Advertising	-	-		-	37
Subsistence	-	-		-	487
Accommodation	-	-		-	105
Travel expenses	11	-	-	11	342
Volunteer expenses	23	-	-	23	288
Sub total	985	155	-	1,140	12,891
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	985	155	-	1,140	12,891
Net of receipts/(payments)	329	- 1	-	328	- 8,789
A5 Transfers between funds	-1	1	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	1,715	-	-	1,715	-
Cash funds this year end	2,043	-	-	2,043	- 8,789

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	NatWest account	2,043	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	2,043	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		Richard Nigel Bell	14-Oct-26