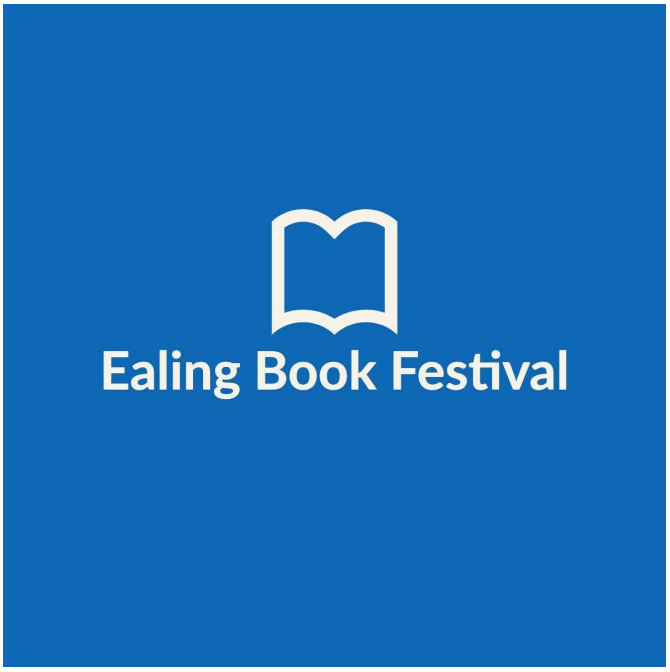


EALING BOOK FESTIVAL

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2026

Ealing Book Festival is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales, number 1205805

Administrative Information

Ealing Book Festival is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales, number 1205805.

Its principal address is 55 Elers Road, London W13 9QB.

The names of the trustees who managed the charity during the year are:

Trustee name	**Office (if any)**	**Dates acted if not for whole year**	**Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)**
Catherine Jaquiss	Chair		First charity trustee
Jeffrey Highfield	Treasurer		First charity trustee
Elizabeth Youard	Secretary	Until 15 September 2025	Board of Trustees
Ian Burge			Board of Trustees
Niroshini Dahanayake			Board of Trustees
Jasmine Ryder McGiff		Until 6 October 2025	Board of Trustees
Andrew Harrison		Until 25 June 2026	Board of Trustees
Hazel Flynn	Secretary	From 12 February 2026	Board of Trustees
Romana Kafedzic		From 12 February 2026 until 28 May 2026	Board of Trustees
Paul Sowerbutts		From 12 February 2026	Board of Trustees

Establishment of the Charity

The charity completed its registration with the Charity Commission on 20 November 2023. It is established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, using the Charity Commission's "Foundation" model constitution.

Objectives and Activities

The activities the charity carries out to further its charitable objects are for the public benefit. The Charities Objects were set out in the constitution as:

To advance public education in the London Borough of Ealing through providing an annual book festival and writing-related events for the appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of books and to encourage reading for pleasure for as wide an audience as possible, including vulnerable people and marginalised communities.

In 2026, the Charity updated the Objects in order to emphasise the value of the written word as well as reading and to update the use of the terms 'vulnerable people and marginalised communities'. The Charity applied to the Charity Commission to change its Objects, this was agreed and confirmed by the Charity's Board in May 2026. The new Objects of the Charity are:

To advance the education of the public in the Borough of Ealing through the provision of an annual book festival and associated writing-related events which enhance the appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of books and encourages reading and writing for pleasure to as wide an audience as possible, including under-represented communities.

The main activities of the charity aimed at achieving our charitable purposes for public benefit during the year relate to the delivery of the Ealing Book Festival in April and May 2026. These activities are described in more detail in the "Achievements and Performance" section.

The trustees confirm that they have taken account of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives. They have also applied this to planning activities and strategy for the future. When the Board of Trustees take decisions, they are driven solely by the furtherance of the charity's Objects. The Board of Trustees is clear about the charity's aims and meets regularly to ensure that these are being delivered effectively and sustainably.

Achievements, Feedback and Forward Planning

Ealing Book Festival 2026 achievements

Building on the success of Ealing Book Festival 2025, and incorporating feedback from festival goers and other stakeholders, the trustees expanded the 2026 programme to run from 29 April to 3 May 2026, comprising 27 individual events across five days (compared with 24 over four days in 2025). The main programme returned to the University of West London (UWL) and Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, and for the first time also included events at Questors Theatre in Ealing Broadway, allowing for larger audiences than in previous years. This year the festival also extended beyond its core dates, with a schools' oracy celebration event on 23 April and the inaugural Ealing Book Festival

Family Day at the Dominion Centre in Southall on 9 May 2026, which took the geographical footprint of the festival to a new part of the borough.

These initiatives led to the third Ealing Book Festival being our biggest and most successful yet with over 3,400 children and adults attending the core festival plus an expanded schools programme reaching over 1,300 primary school children, and our first event in Southall.

As in previous years, the trustees were determined to deliver a diverse and varied programme in order to meet the charity's objectives, with events ranging from interviews with internationally acclaimed authors to poetry performances, guided literary walks and family events. The Local Authors' Showcase again proved a highlight, with over 70 authors applying for one of just 20 places, testament to the festival's growing standing within the local community.

The main programme brought together an exceptional array of literary talent, including internationally established novelists William Boyd, Jung Chang and Anthony Horowitz, leading figures in their fields such as Andrew Graham-Dixon, Simon Jenkins, Alan Johnson and Robert Macfarlane, and up-and-coming talents Oyinkan Braithwaite and Lucy Steeds. Events featuring Jung Chang and William Boyd at UWL each attracted audiences of over 250, the largest the festival has seen.

The 2026 schools' programme was the most ambitious to date, with over 1,300 pupils plus their teachers participating in festival events across two strands: author events hosted at UWL for pupils from 11 local primary schools, attended both in person and virtually; and a new oracy project entitled ‘Proud To Be Me’. This initiative saw Alain 'Fusion' Clapham, a Transformative Storyteller , deliver whole-school assemblies and smaller group workshops at five Ealing primary schools, with 60 pupils then invited to perform their original poetry at a public showcase held at UWL. The project provided a clear progression from inspiration through skills development to public performance, building confidence, oracy and creative expression among participating pupils.

The inaugural Ealing Book Festival Family Day, held on 9 May 2026 in Southall, further extended the festival's reach into the wider borough, with nine local authors and poet and artist Narvir Singh taking part in events on the day. The event was supported by the Heathrow Community Take Off Fund.

The 2026 festival saw the introduction of a team of 3 dedicated volunteer leaders, who coordinated the festival's volunteer stewards, numbering over 50 individuals, across venues and events. The trustees were also able to increase the number of sponsors and donors contributing funding to the festival, whilst retaining the support of existing sponsors.

Ealing Book Festival 2026 stakeholder feedback

Following the 2026 festival, both quantitative and qualitative feedback was gathered from festival goers, participants, volunteers, sponsors and other partners, with the results demonstrating that the considerable expansion of the festival in 2026 was matched by an equally strong attendee experience.

Key findings included:

- Attendees overall had a very positive experience. The average score for overall experience was 4.6/5, with average scores of 4.7/5 for both value for money and organisation.
- The festival had an impact on reading for pleasure. Attendees said they felt more inspired to read or write creatively after attending, with an average score of 3.9/5.
- The festival continues to reach audiences within the local community — 89.3% of respondents lived within the London Borough of Ealing, and around half had attended a previous edition of the festival, demonstrating both a loyal returning audience and ongoing success in attracting new visitors.

The trustees also received strongly positive feedback about the quality and diversity of the author programme and about the use of larger venues, particularly at UWL. Once again, the need for greater visibility and awareness of the Ealing Book Festival brand was highlighted, with many respondents noting they had only discovered the festival at the last minute. Other feedback received, including around ticketing communications, multi-event pricing, access and signage at venues, and the need to broaden the programme and outreach strategy to better reflect the diversity of Ealing's communities, will also be fed into the trustees' planning for Ealing Book Festival 2027 and beyond.

For the schools' author events, teacher feedback was overwhelmingly positive. 80% of respondents rated the overall event as excellent, with the remaining 20% rating it as good. Every respondent said they would attend a similar event again and recommend it to others. Teachers described the sessions as "inspiring, educational and unique" and noted the particular value of pupils meeting published authors who reflect their own communities.

Planning for Ealing Book Festival 2027

Looking ahead, the trustees will continue to grow the festival incrementally, balancing ambition with the practical realities of a young, volunteer-led charity, to ensure it remains on a sustainable footing as it expands its reach and delivers against its charitable objects.

Risk Management

The trustees have overall responsibilities for managing risk in accordance with the charity's risk management policy. We have undertaken an assessment of the principal risks and uncertainties facing the charity, and the controls.

The risk assessment approach involves identifying risks that could have a material impact on the financial or operational performance of the charity, impeding the charity from meeting its strategic objectives and financial targets, adversely impacting on the charity's reputation or stakeholder expectations.

In 2026 the Charity carried out a risk review, identified the principal risks and the measures that have been put in place to mitigate their impact, are:

1. **Insufficient capacity and capability to run a successful book festival in-year.** As a small Charity in only its third year of operation, managed entirely by volunteers, this remains a particular risk for us. During the year we had a significant turnover of trustees with some long-standing trustees resigning and new trustees joining the Board, creating some disruption and challenges in continuing delivery and potential overreliance on more experienced trustees. We have recruited new trustees with particular skills and embarked upon a comprehensive training programme in order to bring those trustees fully up to speed and manage this risk. We also recruited additional volunteers to the management team with specialist skills, such as fundraising and data security, and a dedicated schools programme team. We have also used professional consultants to programme festival events, recognising that this activity is especially demanding, time-consuming and requiring specialist knowledge. We will continue to mitigate the risk by expanding the festival only in a planned and incremental way, and using consultants when finances allow.

2. **Data protection and cyber security risk.** As the book festival grows, we have identified that the risk in this area grows as well. The use of a number of ticket sales platforms and handling much more complex data places more emphasis on this risk. We are enhancing our data protection strategy and data safeguards through expert advice from an experienced specialist volunteer working on our data management controls. We do consider our exposure to cyber security risk to be low, but will take the management of this risk very seriously given the potential impact when implementing new systems and working methods as our capacity increases.

3 **Safeguarding.** As the book festival grows in delivery and capacity, and engages a range of people and communities, the trustees are aware that safeguarding risk is more challenging and prevalent than ever. In 2026, the trustees reviewed and developed a new Safeguarding policy which also included a comprehensive set of procedures in the unlikely event of a safeguarding incident at the festival. All trustees and volunteer stewards were trained in the new policy and procedures prior to the 2026 book festival and it was included in the volunteer stewards' handbook. The Secretary to the Board of trustees was identified as the Safeguarding lead for the festival and coordinates training, responses to incidents and queries, challenges in this area

4 **Diversity, inclusion and engagement with communities**. The trustees are aware that delivery and content of the book festival should reflect the communities it serves and that this is an ongoing challenge. In 2026, the trustees have agreed to establish stakeholder reference groups (including a schools' stakeholder group) so we can communicate with different communities and groups to build and develop the 2027 festival. The focus is on liaison and contact with those communities, so the festival reflects the rich range of communities in the Ealing area. Trustee recruitment will also include encouragement to different communities to apply and in identifying those communities we wish to engage with. Training on diversity and inclusion is also available to trustees and volunteers.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity's governing document is the Charitable Incorporated Organisation Foundation model constitution. Ealing Book Festival is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only voting members are its charity trustees. Our governing body is the Board of Trustees which is responsible for ensuring that the charity meets its legal and regulatory obligations in fulfilling its charitable Objects. The first Ealing Book Festival trustees were appointed at the point of the Charity's registration in November 2023. Following a review of the skills and capacities of the trustee board, three new trustees were appointed in February 2026, including a new Secretary to the Board. One new trustee subsequently resigned in May 2026 and another trustee resigned in June 2026 and there are plans in place to recruit new trustees to replace those that have left. Our trustees are volunteers and are not remunerated for their work although they may claim reasonable expenses incurred through carrying out their duties as trustees.

The Board sets the Charity's strategy and key organisational policies and in 2026 we developed a comprehensive plan for the future called 'The EBF Roadmap 2029'. This maps out the support needed for the successful growth and development of the festival and the Charity. The Board also defines and monitors the Charity's risk appetite and performance and this has been further developed in 2026. It is also responsible for succession planning for trustees as well as for ensuring that there is sufficient volunteer capacity and capability to ensure that the Ealing Book Festival has a viable future.

Trustees adopt and follow a suitable code of conduct that reflects the charity's values and in 2026 this was expressed in more detail in the Charity's new Behavioural Values policy which sets out expected standards of ethics, probity and behaviour. The Charity also developed and adopted a new Bullying and harassment policy, supported by EHCVS. Trustee independence and integrity is promoted. Trustees keep under review the trustee skills required to meet the Charity's objects. The diversity of the Board of Trustees is assessed to ensure an effective, well-balanced board. The overall aim of trustee recruitment is to ensure that there is a suitable mix of skills on the Board, and that the Board properly represents the diversity of our stakeholders.

We recognise the importance of effective support for trustees at all stages of their terms with the charity. We have put in place:

i. A structured trustee recruitment process with open advertising campaigns;
ii. A trustee induction and departure policy; and
iii. An agreed training plan for all trustees, which is monitored by the Board of Trustees

We are committed to embedding a high standard of governance within the Charity and to using good practice within our evaluation and reviews.

The Charity does not provide regulated services or activities for vulnerable adults, children and young people. Ealing Book Festival events are offered in local venues around Ealing which operate under their own safeguarding policies and procedures. We work within our host venues' safeguarding arrangements and work consistently with our host venues' safeguarding leads for festival events. An identified trustee leads on safeguarding on behalf of the Board of Trustees. The

combination of the trustee training strategy and safeguarding policy are measures to ensure that trustees understand their safeguarding responsibilities.

Financial Development and Reserves Policy

The trustees manage the charity's finances in two parts, that is, the income and costs related to running the charity and its infrastructure throughout the year: and then the income and costs of putting on the book festival itself.

Firstly, the events of Ealing Book Festival 2026 generated a surplus of £20,572 (2025 Festival: surplus of £3,839). The main reasons for this difference can be summarised as follows:

- The use of different, larger, venues allowed significantly more people to attend festival events, and generated significantly higher ticket sales (£37,026 compared with £21,915)
- The growing profile of the festival enabled us to attract more sponsorship and grants (total of £9,450 compared with £5,500)
- The mix of different venues meant that the value of donated facilities and services was materially different than the prior year (£9,120 compared with £32,890). Notes 5 and 6 to the financial statements explain why this variance impacts the valuation of both incoming resources and resources expended
- Venues largely provided their own audio-visual and other equipment, so the charity did not need to hire so much equipment at additional expense (£1,332 compared with £5,713)
- The festival expanded the use of professional programming consultants, particularly for the free schools' programme (total cost of £9,911 compared with £6,000)
- For the first time, the festival used its own ticketing platform for the majority of festival events, having in previous years used the platforms of the venues used for events. Whilst the use of the platform is considered to have improved the ticketing process both for users and for the charity, explicit fees and charges of £2,726 were incurred (nil in the prior year)

The charity's infrastructure and administrative expenses totalled £1,061 (2025: £855). Other income of £318 was earned (2025: £242), resulting in a net deficit of £743 (2025: deficit of £613).

The charity therefore ended the year with reserves of £35,760 (2025: £15,931), having generated a net surplus totalling £19,829 (2025: £3,226) from all of its activities during the year.

The trustees' policy for financial reserves seeks to ensure that the Charity ends the festival season with sufficient reserves to cover the estimated costs of running the charity and its infrastructure for two years from the end of the financial year; and of programming and preparing for the next year's festival, before any grants, sponsorship income or ticket sales are achieved

This policy would enable the charity to survive having to cancel a festival season due to unforeseen circumstances, with reserves in hand to programme and prepare for the subsequent year. In addition, the trustees think it advisable to hold reserves to cover the costs of putting on events during the next festival for schools and other similar groups, for which attendance would be free, again before any grants or sponsorship to offset these costs are achieved.

Reserves at the financial year end totalled £35,760, which the trustees consider compliant with the policy.

Reporting and Accounting Responsibilities

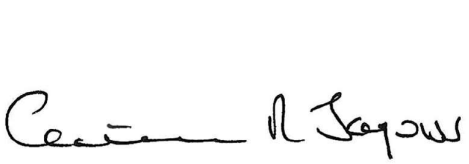
The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities 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, including the income and expenditure 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 UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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 Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the constitution. They are also responsible for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 1 October 2026 and signed on their behalf by:





Catherine Jaquiss, Chair

Jeffrey Highfield, Treasurer

Independent examiner's report
to the trustees of Ealing Book Festival

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Ealing Book Festival (the Festival) for the year ended 30 June 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Festival, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

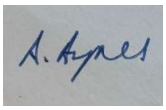
I report in respect of my examination of the Festival's accounts carried out under s.145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the trustees and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeing explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not constitute an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view, and my report I limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 Festival 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 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.

Signed 

Name:	Alexander John Ayres
Relevant professional qualification or body:	Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
Address:	London, United Kingdom
Date:	1 October 2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds Year to 30 June 2026			Unrestricted Funds Year to 30 June 2025
		Festival	Other	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
Incoming resources					
Festival ticket sales		37,026		37,026	21,915
Donated facilities and services	5	9,120		9,120	32,890
Sponsorship		7,500		7,500	5,500
Grants		1,950		1,950	-
Donations (including Gift Aid)		1,802	60	1,862	1,544
Bank Interest		-	258	258	242
Total incoming resources		**57,398**	**318**	**57,716**	**62,091**
Resources expended					
Festival costs	6	(36,826)	-	(36,826)	(58,010)
Other expenses		-	(723)	(723)	(591)
Insurance premiums		-	(338)	(338)	(253)
Bank charges		-	-	-	(11)
Total resources expended		**(36,826)**	**(1,061)**	**(37,887)**	**(58,865)**
Surplus/(Deficit) on activities		**20,572**	**(743)**	**19,829**	**3,226**
Net movement in Funds					
Funds brought forward				15,931	12,705
Surplus/(Deficit) on activities				19,829	3,226
Total Funds carried forward				**35,760**	**15,931**

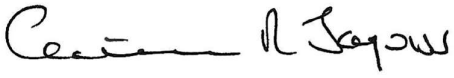
The Notes on pages 13 to 14 form part of these financial statements

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

	Notes	As at 30 June 2026 £	As at 30 June 2025 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank		36,087	17,004
Debtors		53	787
Total current assets		36,140	17,791
Creditors:		380	1,860
Net current assets		35,760	15,931
Net assets		**35,760**	**15,931**
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	7	35,760	15,931
Total funds		**35,760**	**15,931**

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 1 October 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Catherine Jaquiss, Chair



Jeffrey Highfield, Treasurer

Notes forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2026

1. Accounting policies

Statement of Compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation
Ealing Book Festival meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with items recognised at cost or transaction value, unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year.

Going concern
The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Incoming resources
All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the Charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Donations are included when the donor makes a commitment to make the donation.
- Investment income is included when receivable.

Donated facilities and services are included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service received or the venue or facility provided. The trustees take account where relevant of the discounted terms offered by venue providers to charities and for multiple bookings.

Resources expended
Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement is required, and the amount can be quantified reliably. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be recovered and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

2. Trustees' Remuneration and Related Party Transactions
No trustee received any remuneration or claimed any personal expenses during the year. 3 trustees paid in the first instance for festival and other expenses totalling £316 which the charity subsequently reimbursed. No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year.

3. Staff numbers and costs
No person was employed by the charity during the year.

4. Taxation
No tax charges have arisen, since no taxable income was received during the year.

5. Donated facilities and services

This item represents the value of the festival venues, support staff and other services provided by the University of West London to the Charity, free of charge. These donated facilities and services are valued at their open market value, that is, the trustees' best estimate of what the charity would have been charged by an equivalent venue / service provider for equivalent facilities and services, taking account where relevant of the discounted terms offered by venue providers to charities and for multiple bookings.

The Festival also relies heavily on its many supporters and volunteers who donate their services for no remuneration. In line with standard accounting practice for charities, the trustees consider that the value of these services cannot be reliably quantified and so these services have not been reflected in these financial statements.

6. Festival expenses

Festival expenses consist of:

	Year to 30 June 2026	Year to 30 June 2025
	£	£
Programming consultancy fees	9,911	6,000
Donated facilities and services	9,120	32,890
Speakers' fees and expenses	6,786	6,612
Venue charges	4,099	4,362
Ticketing platform fees and charges	2,726	-
Publicity and marketing	1,946	1,841
Audio-visual and other equipment hire	1,332	5,713
Other expenses	906	592
Total Festival expenses	**36,826**	**58,010**

The valuation of donated facilities and services is explained in Note 5.The valuation of donated facilities and services in all instances takes account of discounts offered by venue providers to charities, and for multiple bookings. In line with standard accounting practice for charities, as these donated services and facilities were consumed immediately, the trustees have immediately recognised an equivalent amount as an expense.

7. Fund structure

All funds received to date are unrestricted funds available for use at the trustees' discretion to further the objectives of the charity.

The trustees of the Ealing Book Festival would like to thank all the local businesses and organisations whose financial support enabled the charity to run a successful festival in 2026.

University of West London
The Questors Theatre
Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery

Savills Estate Agents Ealing
St Benedict's School
Pitshanger Community Association
This Curious Life
Notting Hill and Ealing High School
Heathrow Airport Community Take Off Fund
Advanced Thinking Tuition

Waterstones Ealing Broadway

Thank you too to all the authors and speakers who appeared at festival events.

And a huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped at festival events, organising the venues, directing people to the right event, supporting the speakers, and making sure the events took place safely and efficiently.